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Sunday April 6, 2008

INSIDE



Preparing for the Worst

Sect leaders at a polygamist compound in West Texas refused Saturday to let authorities search a temple for a teenage girl whose report of abuse led to the raid, and authorities said they were preparing "for the worst."

Nation...Page 14



Charlton Heston, 84

Charlton Heston, who won the 1959 best actor Oscar as the chariot-racing "Ben-Hur" and portrayed Moses, Michelangelo, El Cid and other heroic figures in movie epics of the '50s and '60s, has died. He was 84.

Life & Style...Page 19

Few attend Article 12 public hearings. PAGE 2

NMC submits report to WASC. PAGE 3

Action sought to save what remains of garment industry

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The seven remaining garment factories in the CNMI recently sent an urgent message to the Commonwealth's elected leaders requesting the Fitial administration and Legislature to undertake actions that would assist the industry to continue operating in the CNMI.

See ACTION on Page 4

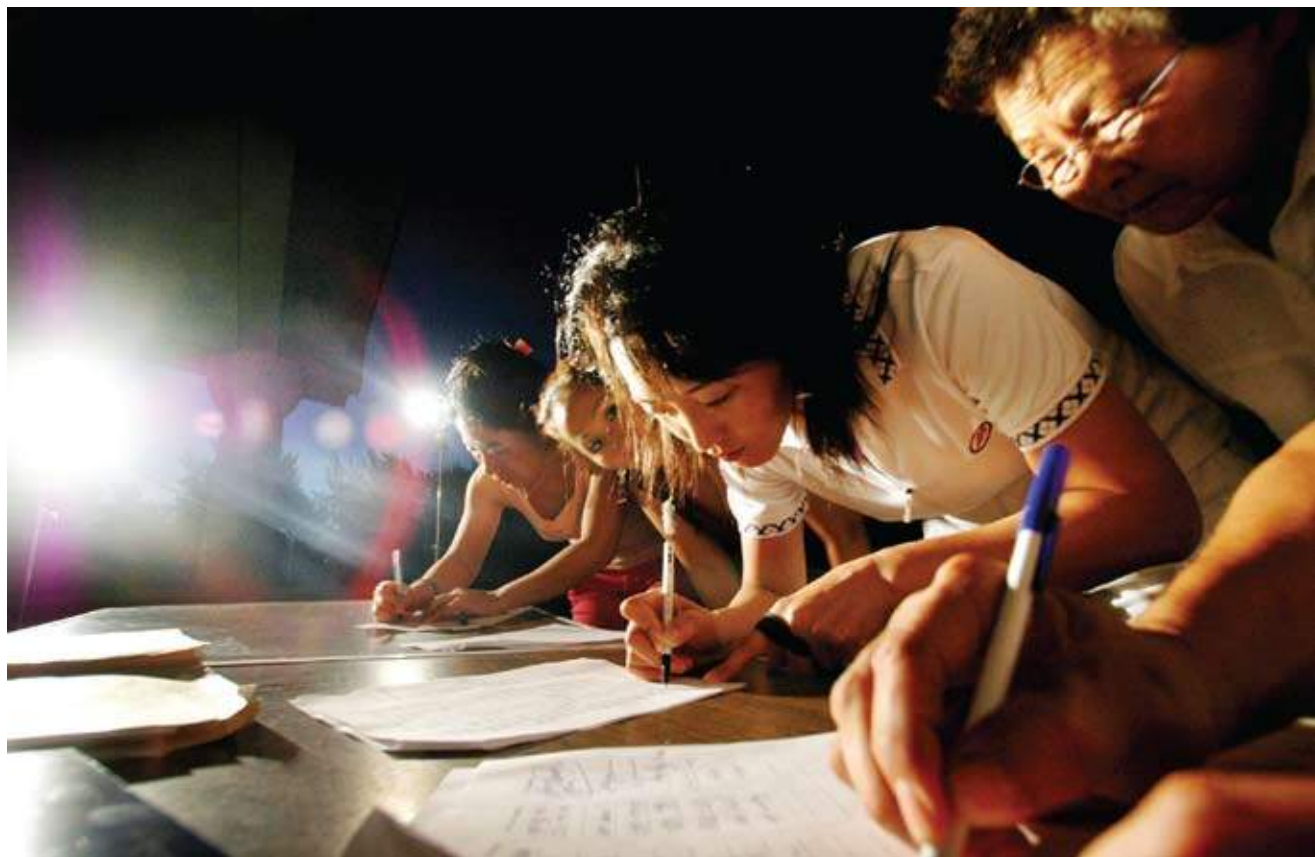
Huge job losses set off recession alarms



WASHINGTON (AP)—It's no longer a question of recession or not. Now it's how

deep and how long. Workers' pink slips stacked ever higher in March as jittery employers slashed 80,000 jobs, the most in five years, and the national unemployment rate climbed to 5.1 percent. Job losses are nearing the staggering level of

See HUGE on Page 4



PETITION SIGNING

Non-resident workers and other members of the community sign a petition addressed to the U.S. Congress, the United Nations, Human Rights Watch, and Nikolao Pula of the Department of the Interior, calling for permanent immigration status in the CNMI during the federalization prayer vigil headed by the Human Dignity Movement at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater Saturday. See story on Page 4

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Lizama finds evidence of some wrongdoing in UMDA's lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama has found evidence of some wrongdoing in connection with the lawsuit filed by the United Micronesia Development Association Inc. and UMDA Laolao LLC



Lizama

against a former UMDA director and various shareholders.

Lizama said from the evidence that plaintiffs UMDA and UMDA Laolao LLC have provided the court "it is clear that there is some wrongdoing that occurred."

"What is uncertain at this

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OPA: FY07 surplus is \$15K, not \$1.5M

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor says the \$1.5-million "surplus" that lawmakers are hoping to tap does not exist.

Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan said that his agency did spend approximately \$1.5 million below its appropriation for



Sablan

fiscal year 2007. But he added that OPA did not get its \$3.13-million budget. OPA's FY2007 actual allotments totaled only \$1.65 million, of which OPA spent \$1.63 million.

"Based on the variance between the appropriation and actual expenditures, there

See OPA on Page 4

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Local

Few attend Article 12 public hearings

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Initial public hearings on proposed amendments to the land alienation act have drawn sparse crowds.

Fewer than 50 people attended the legislative hearings held on Wednesday and Thursday evenings to hear testimony on proposals to amend Article XII of the Constitution.

Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, did not hide his disappointment. Much effort was made to inform the public about the event and the issues under discussions, he said.

However, Tebuteb expressed

belief that a wide spectrum of opinion on the proposals was represented at the hearings.

Witnesses who testified at the hearings include government officials, business people, community leaders, and ordinary citizens.

For instance, Marian Aldan-Pierce, co-chair of the Strategic Economic Development Council and president of DFS Galleria, reiterated the private sector's support for extended leasehold interests for private lands.

The Marianas Public Land Trust asked the Legislature to defer action on the proposed constitutional amendment until 2011, when the CNMI will revisit its land alienation policy as set in the Covenant.

For his part, former House Speaker Pedro Guerrero spoke against the initiative allowing MPLT income to be used for the purposes of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan spoke about the legal issues surrounding the possible vote on the Article XII initiatives.

Under the Constitution, only voters of Northern Marianas descent may cast votes on a proposed amendment to the land alienation act. This restriction, however, may be interpreted by some as tantamount to infringing the rights of the non-indigenous voters.

The public hearings held this week were for House Legislative Initiatives 16-3, 16-4, and 16-8.

H.L.I. 16-3 will allow the government to tap at least US\$25 million generated through leasing public lands so that it can be funneled for the financially troubled Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

H.L.I. 16-4 proposes the extension of leasehold interest on private lands from 55 to 75 years.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider authored both initiatives.

Sponsored by Rep. Victor B. Hocog, H.L.I. 16-8 seeks to allow each senatorial district to amend or repeal the restrictions on alienation of land with respect to its senatorial district.

On April 9 and 10, the House

erating expenses.

Rota citizens will have the opportunity to submit oral testimony on initiatives 16-3, 16-4, and 16-8 on April 7, and on initiative 16-5 on April 18. Both public hearings will begin at 6pm and will be held at the Rota Round House.

The Tinian public hearings will be held at 6pm on April 22 for initiatives 16-3, 16-4, and 16-8, and on April 23 for initiative 16-5. The venue is the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria.

AGO urged to bring to court constitutionality issue over Article XII vote

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A House committee has urged the Office of the Attorney General to clarify with the court who may vote on proposals to amend the Commonwealth's land alienation policy.

Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, posed the request amid concern about the legality of a voting limitation contained in the Constitution in relation to land ownership law.

Under the Constitution, only persons of Northern Marianas descent may vote on any proposed amendment to the land ownership law. But such restriction is interpreted by some as potentially illegal, as it infringes upon the rights of non-indigenous voters.

Tebuteb, in a letter to Attorney General Matthew Gregory, expressed hope that the legal question would be brought to the

CNMI Supreme Court before legislative initiatives are placed on the ballot for referendum.

"We feel strongly that whatever the legal disposition, this matter should be resolved before any vote on Article XII is conducted. In times of great economic uncertainty it is important to minimize the strain on the limited resources of the [Commonwealth Election Commission] whenever possible," Tebuteb said.

Tebuteb's committee is currently reviewing two initiatives proposing to amend Article XII of the CNMI Constitution. House Legislative Initiative 16-4, introduced by Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, seeks to change the leasehold terms for private lands allowed by the CNMI Constitution from 55 years to 75 years.

H.L.I. 16-8, penned by Rep. Victor B. Hocog, seeks to add a new Section 7 to allow each senatorial district to set its own land alienation policy.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provide advance notice of a scheduled Public Informational Meeting for the purpose of accepting written and verbal comments on the proposed action to construct a Wastewater Collection, Treatment and Disposal System for the Kagman community. The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 15, 2008; from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Kagman Community Center.**

The meeting agenda is as follows:

- 1) Overview
- 2) Environmental/Health Issues
- 3) Engineering Design
- 4) Proposed Location
- 5) Public Comments

Members of the general public will have an opportunity to ask questions or seek clarification regarding the proposed wastewater project at this meeting, which is being held to provide an early opportunity for the public to be involved. Comments may also be submitted to the CUC Executive Director, P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950; or via facsimile to: (670) 235-5131; or via e-mail to: betty@cucgov.net by April 30, 2008.

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NMC submits report to WASC

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College has submitted a report updating its accrediting agency on NMC's progress in addressing deficiencies noted in the college's fiscal year 2006 financial reports.

The audit findings were part of the concerns raised by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, which placed NMC on "show cause" status in January 2008.

NMC's special report, dated March 15, 2008, lists the 14 financial statement findings and states the steps taken to address each of them.

One audit finding relates to NMC's numerous account balances which have been outstanding for many years with little or no collection activity. Auditors have found that the receivables, approximating \$2.1 million, cause misstatements in interim financial reports due to a lack of adequate provision for doubtful receivables.

In February 2008, the college



Fernandez

decided to write off roughly \$1.95 million of the longstanding receivables—dating back to 1999—against which there has been little or no payment activity. The receivable balances have been outstanding for too long that NMC, for the most part, cannot take legal action to pursue their payment.

Nonetheless, NMC said it had referred some of the balances to attorneys and collection agencies for further action.

Another major issue found in NMC's financial reports relates to its retirement contributions. In FY2006, the NMI Retirement

Fund increased the rate of contribution for employers participating in the plan from 24 percent to 36 percent. NMC did not comply with the increased rate and chose not to reflect the new rate in its financial statements.

The college cited two reasons for its decision: paying the increased rate would have caused to incur an additional \$1.2 million shortfall in FY2006, and the central government advised NMC to continue to contribute at the old rate.

NMC said it is finally getting help from the Legislature with regard to the pension contribution issue. Lawmakers are now considering legislation to exempt NMC from any increases in the contribution rate to the Fund for five years. The bill is seen as a solution to the audit finding.

The college also reported progress in addressing audit findings concerning its bookstore inventory, fixed assets, employees' annual leave, equipment and real property management, and federal grants, among other things.

CPR training on small island like Saipan very helpful—ARC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Training people in a small island like Saipan on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is very helpful to the community, according to American Red Cross NMI Chapter health and safety instructor Glenn Policare.

Policare said people on the island are very family oriented, many live within their villages, and it is very rare that they travel outside of their respective villages.

"So I think if each community—Koblerville, San Antonio, As Lito, all different villages in all different families, if you have just a few people that are certified (CPR) in each of those villages, I think it definitely helps out the community itself," said Policare in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* during the American Red Cross Super CPR Saturday training at Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Room.

The instructor said people still have to call 911 and advance medical care to come and help.

"But if we can start to help, then people have a much greater chance of survival," he pointed out.

Policare said people who are certified to perform CPR will not be in trouble in helping pa-

tients as long as they perform their trained skills and don't go above that.

"If I saw how to do brain surgery on TV that doesn't certify me. But if I do CPR to the level that I've been trained, we have what we called Good Samaritan Law which protects you... which basically says I did what I could for this person, I help him to my best of my ability. You could still sue me but the good Samaritan Law is going to protect me," he said.

Policare said people who are not trained to perform CPR should not touch a person or else they could be found liable if something happens to that individual.

"If they say 'hey are you certified to do that? No then you could

get in trouble,'" he explained.

He said this is the reason why Red Cross wants to certify people to do CPR.

"People feel good about themselves when they get their cards, the certification is good for a year," he said.

Policare, however, stressed that even people who are already certified, should call 911 first.

"And you don't necessarily have to do CPR in every case. It depends on what's wrong with the person," he said. "CPR is very effective in helping people that are in either in cardiac arrest for having cardiac distress, or having heart trouble."

More than 90 people, mostly students, participated during Saturday's four-hour CPR training.

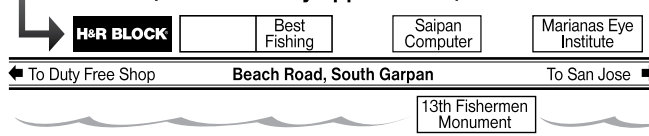
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Prayer vigil attracts less than 200

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

A prayer vigil in support of federalization, which was expected to attract at least 500 people, had a turnout of less than 200 last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

One of the said reasons of the low turnout, is that guest worker organizations did not see eye-to-eye on a proposal that could grant them CNMI resident status.

Rep. Tina Sablan said she is sad that after a "deeply moving success of our

Unity March, we have found ourselves divided again."

"I'm not talking about division between those who oppose federalization and those who support it; I'm talking about divisions among us. Among people who want the same thing and that is improved status for long-term foreign workers," Sablan said.

Attorney Mark Hanson also recognized the few people at the prayer vigil than the day after the Unity March.

"It sounds to me that there are disagreements and that's because some people want to go in one direction

and the others want to go in another direction—but that's destroying unity and that's exactly what your detractors want you to do," Hanson said.

He says that the groups would have to make up the differences, get together and be united because "that's the way you can make the real change."

Hanson said the key to make "real change" is in unity and numbers.

"If three workers of a big hotel refuse to work for a week, they get fired. If all workers of a big hotel big hotel refuse to work for a week, they get a raise and better vacation benefits. Now,

if all workers of all big hotels refuse to work for a week, they get a constitutional amendment," Hanson said.

He says there's an "incredible strength in numbers."

"Whatever you decide to do, be united in your purpose and be united in your actions. Set your goals high and don't stop until you've attained them. Organize for a union, make a real change," Hanson said.

Human Dignity Movement president Jerry Custodio said everyone had been welcomed to join the prayer vigil no matter their beliefs on the federalization issue.

He said that what the prayer vigil was about was coming together and

fighting for the same goal.

A letter from human rights activist Wendy Doromal was read to the audience by Custodio.

Doromal stated that social justice can not be achieved merely through legislation, "It is achieved through changing people's hearts, through understanding, and through education."

She encourages all guest worker groups to stay united in their fight for federalization.

"Don't despair; never lose hope. Stand strong for justice for yourselves and your children. Persevere in your fight for status, political and social rights, liberty, democracy, and freedom until the fight is won," Doromal stated.

HUGE

From Page 1

a quarter-million this year in just three months.

For the third month in a row total U.S. employment rolls shrank - often a telltale sign that the economy has jolted

dangerously into reverse.

At the same time, the jobless rate rose three-tenths of a percentage point, a sharp increase usually associated with times of deep economic stress.

The grim picture described by the Labor Department on Friday provided stark evidence of just how much the jobs market has buckled under the

weight of the housing, credit and financial crises. Businesses and jobseekers alike are feeling the pain.

"It is now very clear that the fat lady has sung for the economic expansion. The country has slipped into a recession," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group. Indeed, there is wid-

ening agreement that the first recession since 2001 has arrived. Even Ben Bernanke, in a rare public utterance for a Federal Reserve chairman, used the "r" word, acknowledging for the first time this week that a recession was possible.

Job losses were widespread last month, hitting workers at factories,

construction companies, retailers, banks, real-estate firms and even temporary-help agencies. Also mortgage brokers, hotels, computer design shops, accounting firms, architecture and engineering companies, legal services, airlines and other transportation as well as telecommunications companies.

LIZAMA

From Page 1

juncture is who or what entities committed acts that exposed them to legal liability. This is why the court will allow these actions to proceed," said Lizama in his written order issued on Friday.

UMDA and UMDA Laolao LLC sued former UMDA director atty. Robert Pfaff and many shareholders for fraud, misappropriation of funds, among other allegations.

UMDA sued Pfaff for breach of fiduciary duty.

The plaintiffs also sued shareholders G.E.T. Realty Trust; G.E.T. Realty Trustee Thomas C. Sorenson; Concorde Trust; Concorde Trustee Rothschild Trust Guernsey Limited; Rothschild Trust Guernsey Limited Account 2299; Davina Limited; Pirouette LLC Profit Sharing Plan; Monte Perucho Inveteduras LLC; Raymond D. McCall; John Larson; David Amir Makov; Morley Inc.; and Morley Inc. Employee Stock

Ownership Plan and Trust.

Also sued are Point Du Hoc Irrevocable Trust and its Trustee; WS Investment Trust; Norskanvest LLC; Pigavest A.G.; Irizarry, McCall & Squarrell PC; Irizarry & McCall P.C. Profit Sharing Plan; Global Leader Consulting Inc.; Profit Sharing of Global Leader Consulting Inc.; Keysdale

Ventures LLLP; First Court Ltd. Re Account #2305; and 50 unnamed co-defendants.

The plaintiffs sued all defendants for fraud in the inducement, assisting in breaches of fiduciary duty, conversion, and negligent misrepresentation.

In addition, McCall, and Irizarry & McCall P.C. are sued for malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, and negligence.

The plaintiffs alleged that the defendants committed corporate malfeasance and fraud. They alleged that the defendants were all participants (in small or large ways) in an effort to deprive and harm UMDA.

The court conducted a hearing on Feb. 19, 2008, on a number of different motions presented by both plaintiffs

and defendants.

In his order, Lizama granted the motion to set aside the default judgments entered against defendants Rothschild Trust Guernsey, Rothschild Trust Guernsey Limited Account 2299, Concorde Trust, and Davina Limited.

Lizama granted Thomas Sorenson's motion to dismiss the claim against him due to failure of personal jurisdiction.

The judge said the first amended complaint only names Sorenson a handful of times and does not sufficiently allege why he as an individual should be named as a defendant in this matter.

Lizama denied David Amir Makov's motion to dismiss him from the case based on lack of personal jurisdiction.

Lizama said he believes that the plaintiffs' evidence establishes, at the very least, a minimum basis of sufficient contacts with the CNMI to justify the claim.

"Some of these contacts include his ownership in both the LLC and UMDA," the judge noted.

Lizama granted the motion of KCT Irrevocable Trust, G.E.T. Realty Trust,

and Concorde Trust to dismiss for being improper parties to the suit. But Lizama allowed plaintiffs to amend the complaint to name their trustees instead.

The judge granted the motion to dismiss Rothschild Account 2299 for being an improper party in the lawsuit.

"A bank account, a mere repository for money, is not a proper named party to this lawsuit," he said.

Lizama denied the motions to dismiss jointly filed by defendants Makov, Paul Dingee, Pfaff, G.E.T. Realty Trust, Sorenson, and KCT Irrevocable Trust for reasons of personal jurisdiction and insufficient pleadings.

Lizama approved the scheduled depositions that have been agreed upon by the various parties in the case.

The judge denied the motion that G.E.T. and KCT are not subject to depositions and discovery.

Lizama declined to rule on the motion to compel Pfaff's testimony and a confidentiality order at this time.

"At this time, the court is uncomfortable in demanding that Pfaff give testimony that he believes to be self incrim-

inating, especially since the depositions have not yet occurred," he said.

Lizama said that, after the depositions if the plaintiffs still believe that Pfaff should be compelled to testify they can make the motion.

Attorney Michael Dotts, counsel for plaintiffs, earlier stated that UMDA seeks to recover in this lawsuit any and all legal expenses, cost associated with loss of investment opportunities, and monetary penalties to be awarded by the court.

In a previous press statement, UMDA chairman Jose Lifofoi stated that "we will take whatever legal action is necessary to insure that UMDA is fully protecting the interest of its shareholders."

"Our Board of Directors fully supports this effort and understands that we are committed to spend the resources and time necessary to achieve this objective," Lifofoi said.

UMDA is a corporation chartered and existing under the laws of the CNMI. Located in Saipan, it has approximately 1,200 shareholders throughout Micronesia. It has a long history of investing in local projects.

OPA

From Page 1

was a budgetary 'surplus' of roughly \$1.5 million. However, based on the variance between OPA's actual allotments and actual expenditures, there was a surplus of only \$15,000," Sablan said.

The public auditor made the clarifi-

cation in view of a bill seeking to re-appropriate OPA's \$1.5-million "surplus" to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

Sablan said that even if the funds were available, the bill as currently written is deficient to effect the re-appropriation.

He explained that, based on the Planning and Budgeting Act and its applicability to OPA's FY2007 budget, OPA

was allowed to spend only the \$1.65 million that it was allotted, as opposed to the \$3.13 million that it was given in the FY2007 budget law.

Absent a legal opinion from the Office of the Attorney General to the contrary, OPA does not believe there is authority in the Planning and Budgeting Act to re-appropriate the difference between an appropriate amount and actual allotments," Sablan said.

As a group, the companies asked the Fitial administration and Legislature to consider three separate initiatives to assist the remaining factories.

"Our industry has waited for several years for changes to Headnote 3(a). Companies that would have taken advantage of Headnote 3(a) are now closed. Higher labor costs anticipated years ago have not been mitigated with the opportunities afforded through amendments to Headnote 3(a)," read the letter.

The factories also requested the administration to continue its effort to seek amendment of the special tariff privilege that created the industry 25 years ago, one that now is almost meaningless with newer free trade agreements existing in foreign countries.

The companies asked that the governor to keep talking with the U.S. Congress to delay the next scheduled increase in CNMI minimum wage rates as a way to continue their operations. Many smaller companies in the economy provide service and products to support garment manufacturing. Closure of the industry will have ramifications throughout the economy.

The current minimum wage of \$3.55 is scheduled to increase by \$0.50 cents to \$4.05 come May 26, 2008.

Lastly, the apparel firms asked the governor and the Legislature to consider implementing reductions in user fees, beautification taxes, excise taxes, and labor processing fees that foreign competition does not pay making their products less expensive.

"Our industry will continue to remain in the CNMI as long as it makes economic sense to do so. The mutually beneficial partnership entered into 25 years ago is in serious jeopardy due to the erosion of those opportunities that attracted investment here. We hope that with your administration's careful consideration and effort we know we can continue to exist in the CNMI longer than many would have us otherwise," their letter further read.

Garment company executives estimate they still contribute \$15 million in user fees, excise, payroll, beautification, and other taxes annually.

This does not include payments made to CNMI Labor and Immigration, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Commonwealth Ports Authority, and

Commonwealth Health Center, and on-island vendors for local purchases of gasoline, telecommunications, insurance, food, and supplies, restaurants, hotels, legal representation and others.

According to Richard A. Pierce, Gov. Fitial's special assistant for trade relations, the CNMI collected \$532,000 in user fees in March, up 10 percent from February.

"In recent work with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), the CNMI submitted it would receive 8 percent of its general account collections from the garment industry in 2008. This does not include government fees collected by independent agencies for power, health services, ports fees, etc.," he said in telephone interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

ACTION

From Page 1

In a March 27, 2008, letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, House Speaker Arnold Palacios, and Senate President Pete P. Reyes, the seven Saipan factories stated, "the death of this industry is greatly over exaggerated. Doing nothing to change or not applying resources for change will fulfill the prophecy of the industry's demise."

The firms that signed the letter were United International Corporation, US CNMI Development, Marianas Garment Manufacturers, Inc., Onwel Manufacturing, RIFU Apparel, Neo Fashion, Inc., Uno Moda Corporation, and Kueng Seung Saipan, Inc.

San Nicolas orders worker to depart for filing false claims

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Department of Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas has upheld the decision of the Labor administrative hearing office that ordered to depart the CNMI an alien worker whose all claims, but one, against his former employer were found to be untrue.

San Nicolas said the evidence cited by then administrative hearing officer and now Labor director Barry Hirshbein in Zu Fa Liu's complaint against Misamis Construction Saipan Ltd. "is sufficient and the legal

grounds on which the order is based are proper."

In affirming Hirshbein's order, San Nicolas ruled that Liu must depart the CNMI within five days after Misamis Construction delivers the repatriation ticket to Labor.

The secretary said if Liu leaves the Commonwealth voluntarily pursuant to the terms of the order, eligibility to re-enter the CNMI in the future will be retained.

"If Liu is deported, there will be no eligibility to re-enter the Commonwealth in the future," San Nicolas pointed out.

He ordered Misamis to pay the complainant within 10 days from March 31, 2008, the \$375 processing fee that was deducted by the company from Liu's wages.

Labor records show that on June 23, 2004, Liu filed a Labor case alleging that Misamis had not provided work from April 19, 2004, through the date of the filing of the complaint.

Liu also alleged that the company deducted \$375 from his wages for Labor processing fees.

Misamis admitted that during that period workers were deducted for their processing fees. The company stopped that practice years ago.

While Misamis disputed the amount deducted they could not produce any records and con-

ceded to the amount claimed.

On Sept. 17, 2003, Misamis submitted an expiration transfer application to Labor to hire Liu.

The application was denied in February 2007. Complainant worked under the contract from the time it was filed until June 13, 2004.

In his complaint, Liu states that, "my employer did not provide the job to me from April 19, 2004, to now."

In his administrative order issued in August 2007, Hirshbein said he finds Liu's credibility lacking and his evidence on the claim for damages to be insufficient.

Hirshbein, however, ruled that Liu prevails as to the issue of improper deductions from his salary and ordered Misamis to

pay him \$375.

But the hearing officer noted that the allegation of improper deductions alone would be insufficient to justify a worker from quitting their job.

Liu appealed. He claimed that the amount of \$375 awarded by the hearing officer had not been paid within 10 days of the order.

Liu also appealed on the grounds that three months' wages were, in fact, not paid. He argued that Misamis terminated his contract and that he did not abandon the job.

In addition, the worker requested that he should be permitted to transfer to a new employer.

As to the \$375 issue, San Nicolas affirmed the award, saying the non-payment may have

been the result of the filing of an appeal in this case.

On the three months' wages issue, San Nicolas noted that the hearing officer found that the evidence of payment was clear, and Liu has stated no credible basis to challenge that finding.

With respect to abandoning the job finding, the secretary said the hearing officer found the testimony of Liu on this issue not to be credible and the evidence supporting this claim to be insufficient.

On the transfer request, San Nicolas said the hearing officer found, based on the worker's own testimony, that he had violated Commonwealth law with respect to employment subsequent to the filing of a complaint.

Bainimarama: Fiji ministers work harder

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive)—The Interim Government Ministers were not subjected to the 5 percent pay cut last year like other civil servants because of their relatively higher workload, according to the Prime Minister's Office.

This was confirmed by the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office Parmesh Chand. He added that the interim ministers were also paid less than the previous ministers.

"Their remuneration package is much lower than the previous ministers," he said. "Also the interim ministers took over additional responsibilities by virtue of the size of the Cabinet having been significantly reduced from as much as 34 ministers and assistant ministers to only 17 ministers."

Chand was reacting to comments made at the Fiji Public Service Association (FPSA) AGM last week that despite the implementation of a 5 percent across-the-board pay cut for all

civil servants, the ministers retained their salaries.

The FPSA members were told that while an interim Cabinet minister's salary and package remained estimated at FJ\$75,000 [US\$49,800] per annum, the only part they were not receiving was the Parliamentary salary and constituency allowance.

FPSA general secretary Rajeshwar Singh said the salary and package of an interim minister included: annual salary of FJ\$51,496 [US\$34,193]; entertainment FJ\$6,500; housing allowance of FJ\$10,800 [US\$7,171]; mobile phone expenses of FJ\$350 per month; and private phone expenses of FJ\$1,200 per annum.

Singh said the interim ministers' pay was initially reduced by 5 percent along with the rest of the civil servants on March 8, but a directive was issued to restore their 5 percent on pay on March 22, 2007.

"Where is the justice and equality?" he asked.

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- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
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- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
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- At least five years' experience in the publishing industry or related field;
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- At least high school graduate;
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If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the *Saipan Tribune*, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to editor@saipantribune.com. On-island hires preferred.

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

'Community should be aware of procedure for guardianship'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The community should be aware of the proper procedure in seeking legal guardians of minor children, according to Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama.

Lizama said the community needs to know that the normal and proper procedure is to secure guardianship first and then to place the child in the custody of the guardian.

"The natural parents of a child must ensure their proper care at all times," said the judge in his order that granted Jerry J. Barcinas and Agnes A. Barcinas legal guardianship of their minor niece.

The guardianship hearing was held on Rota on March 14, 2008. The child's biological parents petitioned for the appointment of Jerry and Agnes Barcinas to be their daughter's legal guardians.

Jerry and Agnes Barcinas, who

are currently living in North Cape Court, Belleville, Illinois, consented to the guardianship. The child is currently living with Jerry and Agnes Barcinas.

In his order, Lizama said while he consents to the appointment of the aunt and uncle as the child's guardians, he is troubled by the fact that the child was left in their care prior to the filing of petition.

"The usual procedure in a situation such as this would require the child to remain with her natural parents until the court approved the appointment of the aunt and uncle as guardians," the judge pointed out.

In fact, Lizama said, this is not the first instance where he has had to approve the appointment of guardianship despite improper procedure.

In the previous case, he said he admonished the community to conform to the proper procedure in guardianship proceedings.

"While the petitioners in this instance did not follow proper procedure, due to the fact that the child is already residing with the guardians, the Court will approve the appointment," Lizama said.

In addition, he said, he is disturbed by the proposed guardians' absence from the hearing on the petition.

Presence even if by telephone at these hearings, the judge noted, ensures that the proposed guardians understand their role.

"The responsibilities of a guardian include parental duties that are subject to the will of the natural parents. The guardians' presence at the hearing also allows the Court to determine independently whether the proposed guardians are capable of handling their duties," Lizama said.

In spite of these concerns, he added, he grants the petition because the proposed guardianship "appears to be in the best interests of the child."

Chamber scholarship materials now online

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Educational Scholarship Fund information and application materials are now available at www.saipanchamber.com, as well as at the Chamber office in the Family Building on Garapan Street in Garapan.

This year, the Chamber will award six \$1,500 scholarships to deserving Saipan high school seniors. To download complete eligibility requirements and application materials, visit the Chamber's website.

Applications are due at the

Chamber office by 5pm, Friday, April 18, 2008, and scholarships will be awarded at the Chamber's general membership meeting on June 4, 2008. Questions may be directed to the Chamber at info@saipanchamber.com or 233-7150. (SCC)

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The Board of Trustees of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund ("NMIRF"), charged with administering the Group Health & Life Insurance Program ("GHLIP"), a separate and distinct trust component of the NMIRF, is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified insurance companies and firms to provide group life insurance coverage to employees and retirees of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Government. To receive the RFP packet, you must fax, e-mail or mail your request to:

Mark A. Aguon, Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
Fax: 670/664-8080
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.



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**NOTICE OF HEARINGS
PENDING DENIAL APPEALS
FOR APRIL 10, 2008 AND APRIL 17, 2008**

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-174	Cabrera, Yolanda C.	4JC Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-173	Lozano, Teresita A.	4JC Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-233	Ilorde, Lourdes T.	AA Enterprises Inc.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-245	Nombalang, Peter L.	Acosta, Carmen C.	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-164	Manosa, Danilo DC.	Alfonso, Francisco V.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-098	Ganisi, Sonny L.	Aranda, Roma Diaz	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-117	Samia, Angelito S.	Arriola, Luzviminda F.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-099	Gamboa, Roberto T.	Auto Marine Inc.	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-162	Gison, Robert B.	Baitlon, Teresita	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-269	Zhou, Jianfang	Besebes, Akemi	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-128	Yap, Jorge B.	Bright Start Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-086	Tajan, Romeo S.	Brundidge Jr., Willie L.	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-176	Cruzat, Jemina D.	Calayag, Celerino M.	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-172	Blanco, Eden A.	Calma Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-173	Yumul, Grace Mary M.	Calma Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-001	Santillan, Melinda T.	Camacho, Aida A.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-079	Chang, Zhenghua	Castro, Xiao Mei Feng	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-080	Chi, Changfu	Castro, Xiao Mei Feng	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-254	Verde, Carmencita V.	Chan Kwai Shing	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-085	Huang, Lian Jin	Chunshan Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-155	Bautista, Dennis D.	Cui & J Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-063	Ahmed, Shuhel	Dajets Island Charcoal	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-197	Aleta, Esther R.	Delos Santos, Elena	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-227	Jeong, Ouk Soon	Dong Rim Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-268	Ignacio, Mark Rainier Q.	E E A Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-159	Guevarra, Manuel M.	E. C. & M. Incorporated	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-199	Elbo, Rogelio C.	Elbo, Violeta C.	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-234	Diesta, Regina C.	Fermaran, Rustica	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-262	Hu, Lunrong	Fu Mei Development Corp.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-261	Daniel, Ricardo Bart R.	Gacayan, Juan A.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-119	Laison, Miguel L.	Gems Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-115	Sahagun, Ruben G.	Golden Eagle Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-236	Liu, Jian	Hawaii Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-078	Huang, Ming Shan	Huang Zheng Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-263	Li, Donghua	J C J Co., Ltd.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-196	Cho, Jin Wook	Jin Joo Corp.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-062	Zong, Xiquan	J-One Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-140	Quan, Zhenyu	JXYZ Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-197	Kang, Hyun Joung	Kap, Soon Choi	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-096	Li, Huiqin	L Xin Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-232	Marcellana, Josefina M.	Lagartos, Rolando	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-036	Du, Jian Fang	Lely, Margarita M.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-192	Bulaon, Desiree N.	LHD Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-193	Oliver, Jennylyn G.	LHD Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-194	Rivera, Jerramie G.	LHD Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-114	Zheng, Chunmin	Limes, Rebecca S.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-216	Xu, Xingnong	Long Feng Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-067	Kumar, Amit	Naina Enterprises Inc.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-127	Agustin, Gerardo Dela Cruz	P.H.S. Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-069	Cong, Xiaoxia	Pacific Horizon, Ltd.	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-108	Rejano, Isagani	Pacific Drilling Ltd.	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-147	Teodoro, Anacleto P.	Palacios, Lolita N.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-146	Teodoro, Maximo Jr. P.	Palacios, Lolita N.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 07-454	Qian, Caixia	Pangelinan, Mariano	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-101	Alulod, Menecio B.	Par Enterprises Inc.	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-139	Monteclaro, Bernarda S.	Pelisamen, Maria E.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-160	Apas, Renee P.	R & S Enterprises Inc.	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-118	Abergas, Ronnie C.	Reliance Construction Inc.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-081	Gao, Jingjing	Rui Jin Trading Corp	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-033	Hamoy, Clifford L.	Saint Trading Co. Inc.	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-129	Herrera, Maridel E.	Saipan Hotel Corp.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-134	Paragas, Shiene R.	Santos, Rodrigo P.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-148	Jota, Irene De Guzman	Secharkebur, Ma. Ana O.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-156	Odicta, Ryan S.	Sesai Trading Co.	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-181	Martinez, Rhona L.	Sigua, Eleazar Y.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-072	Dayapan, Virgie L.	Spn Emp Agncy And Svcs Inc	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-073	Dayapan, Virgie L.	Spn Emp Agncy And Svcs Inc	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-070	Quinto, Erlinda Christie A.	Spn Emp Agncy And Svcs Inc	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-071	Soria, Orly Gadil	Spn Emp Agncy And Svcs Inc	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-260	Capili, June	Takai, Maria L.	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-152	Marzan, Lydia Timotea R.	Tenorio, Ray And Janice	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-083	Tesoro, Pancid N.	Untalan, Magdalena	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-242	De Guzman, Florentino M.	V & V Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-060	Cao, Xiao Jun	Xing Wang Development Corp.	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-082	Deng, Yanjiao	Xing Wang Development Corp.	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-215	Wang, Yumei	Yantze Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-248	Tang, Xinmei	Yong He Pacific Corp.	Apr. 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-265	Manebog, Arnel	Yumul, Elena	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-266	Serrano, Wilfredo C.	Yumul, Elena	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-050	Hong, Weijun	Yuuhei Corporation	Apr. 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.

A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

Looking back at the Mariana Islands the past 62 years

PHOTO BY DMS

Guests are gathering in front of Saipan Beach Intercontinental Hotel for the opening ceremony in July 26, 1976.



Joint approach to supporting adolescent health, development

SUVA—Representatives from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, United Nations Population Fund, and United Nations Children's Fund reaffirmed their continued support for adolescent health and development in Pacific countries and territories when they met at the UNFPA office in Suva on 28 March 2008 to sign the 2008 Project Agreement.

The agreement was signed by the heads of the three organizations as a transition to the longer programme cycle for 2009–2012.

UNFPA Representative, Najib Assifi, emphasized the importance of the joint programme as a flagship initiative addressing adolescent health – a key

emerging issue in the region. Mr Assifi highlighted the need to expand the dimensions of key programme areas including policy development, and signalled UNFPA's ongoing commitment to achieving a higher level of impact in the next project cycle.

UNICEF Deputy Representative, Tim Sutton, stated that the joint initiative provides a valuable example of how UN organisations could build stronger partnerships through management processes. The project management committee comprising members of the three organisations has enabled greater interaction and dialogue among the three parties. He said this arrangement sets the climate for a stronger consultative

process in developing the new Strategic Plan (2009–2012) and joint fundraising tool, which should be completed by September this year.

SPC Director-General, Dr Jimmie Rodgers, acknowledged the evolution of a well-grounded partnership that addresses most of the Millennium Development Goals in relation to the health and well-being of young people, saying that the three parties should be seen as one team on the ground. He emphasized that while it is extremely important to nurture collaboration at the regional level, it is critical that efforts are made to promote national ownership and sustainability at country level. The joint approach also

offered new opportunities for further growth and expansion, said Dr Rodgers, highlighting the potential synergies and complementarity between the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) approach and SPC's joint country approach (JCS) in the development of strategic plans and activities in close cooperation with Pacific governments and communities. He said both mechanisms could provide avenues for building up long-term national capacity to ensure sustainability of programmes. For more information, please contact AHD Project Advisor, Dr. Rufina Latu (rufinal@spc.intmailto:rufinal@spc.int). (SPC)

USDA announces \$267M rural broadband loan

WASHINGTON—USDA Rural Development Under Secretary Thomas C. Dorr today announced that Open Range Communications, headquartered in Denver, Colo., has been approved to receive a \$267 million loan from USDA Rural Development to provide broadband service to 518 rural communities in 17 states.

This partnership will address the significant need to deploy wireless, portable broadband connectivity to improve service in considerable portions of rural America. The commitment by USDA and Open Range represents one of the largest public-private investments for broadband service by the federal government.

This unique set of services will provide cutting-edge Wi-Max technology that transmits wireless data in areas not serviced by cable or DSL technologies. Open Range plans to offer affordable, wireless, high-speed broadband service to underserved and unserved areas.

The loan presents dual benefits to the residents of the communities to be served. Those

without service will have access to broadband and other technologies for the first time. Residents in areas served by an existing provider will benefit from mobile and portable broadband, lower prices, enhanced service options and improved quality as a result of marketplace competition.

"Portable, high-speed connectivity provides new options to help create business expansion in rural communities," Rural Development Under Secretary Thomas C. Dorr noted. "Communities that lack broadband are often bypassed for new economic development investments. 'Broadband is as important today as providing rural telephone service was 75 years ago, and we're proud of our role in fostering public-private partnerships to bring broadband services to rural America.'"

In addition to broadband, Open Range will offer satellite services to provide rural residents with portable connectivity virtually nationwide. Improved service with portability features will improve communications and responses for emergency first responders such as law en-

forcement and rescue providers, as well as health care providers.

The project is intended to cover more than 6 million people and serve more than 447,000 households within five years. In addition, it will create jobs and business opportunities in the project's 17-state area. Open Range is leveraging the \$267 million government loan with an investment of more than \$100 million from the private sector. The loan is contingent upon Open Range meeting the conditions of the loan agreement.

The loan was approved under the Rural Development Broadband Loan and Loan Guarantee Program, which since its inception has awarded \$1.6 billion in loans for projects to provide rural broadband services. The Rural Development Broadband program has financed a variety of technologies, including wireless, fiber, hybrid fiber/coax, DSL and broadband over power lines. The Open Range project is the program's first investment to support Wi-Max technology.

USDA Rural Development's investments in broadband are helping rural communities de-

velop sustainable economic opportunities to improve the quality of life in communities across the nation. The loan to Open Range is expected to foster business development and create new jobs in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Wisconsin.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested nearly \$91 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>. (USDA)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 07, 2000

Ex-CPA officials paid leave credits

The previous administration of the Commonwealth Ports Authority are facing investigation by the Office of the Public Auditor for allegedly circumventing the NMI Retirement Fund Act to increase the retirement benefits of two former officials. A preliminary result of the OPA investigation disclosed that the previous CPA administration allowed the conversion of the officials' unused compensatory time hours to sick leave for use as additional years of credited service in the computation of their retirement allotment.

Battle over Hillblom estate nears end

After almost five years of fierce legal battle, the qualified heir claimants and the Larry L. Hillblom Foundation have finally agreed to settle the remaining assets of the Hillblom estate, leading to the closure of the lengthy heirship case.

Senate realigns \$4 million for CUC to gov't agencies

The Senate yesterday agreed to wipe off all the \$4 million set aside by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio for payment of government utilities in order to hike the budget of some agencies, including the island municipalities of Rota and Tinian, under the proposed FY 2000 spending package. The budget bill finally cleared the upper house during a late afternoon session that was cut short from time to time as members went back to amend the measure passed by the House of Representatives last month.

April 07, 2003

Alert up vs products, passengers from SARS areas

The CNMI authorities are said to be on high alert not only for passengers, but also for products coming from areas with cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome or SARS. This comes even as the Pacific Daily News in Guam reported that a 9-year-old girl suspected of having contracted SARS continues to be evaluated and treated at her home where she and her family have been quarantined.

'CUC in the dark about OTEC'

Saying that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been "left in the dark," CUC board member Jack Borja has expressed dismay over the apparent lack of consultation on the proposed \$50-million Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant on Saipan. "CUC has been left in the dark; I don't know why but I won't let it happen that CUC would still be in the dark," he said, citing a recent signing of a memorandum of understanding between a private company and the Executive Branch, to which, he said, the CUC was not made privy to.

Govt OKs Kagman wastewater project

Government agencies have permitted the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s proposed Kagman wastewater treatment system, allowing the utility firm to start developing the project site within three months. However, Coastal Resources Management Regulatory Agencies incorporated in the major siting permit several conditions aimed at mitigating potential environmental impacts of the project before and after actual construction work begins.

April 07, 2004

Group: CNMI to get AD status

The Northern Mariana Islands will receive its Approved Destination Status next week when Gov. Juan N. Babauta meets with China National Tourism Administration officials in Beijing. This comes amid a visit by Chinese travel agents, airline representatives, and China-based travel magazines who paid a courtesy visit to the governor to express their support to the CNMI's effort to lure more Chinese tourist to the Commonwealth.

MVA gears up for China market

With the reported Chinese government's approval of the CNMI's application as an accredited tourist destination, the Commonwealth's tourism industry sees brighter months ahead-good news on top of the 15-percent growth in visitor arrivals posted in March. Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Jonas Ogren said yesterday that preparations have been going on in anticipation of China's approval to the CNMI's request for Approved Destination Status. Officially, though, he said he has yet to receive information if the application has actually been approved.

Marianas March Against Cancer set for May 16-17

As one of the leading causes of illness and death in the CNMI and all around the world, cancer greatly impacts many aspects of our lives. Cancer affects people of all races, age groups and genders. It is the second-leading cause of death in the CNMI. Fortunately, the search for a cure is making substantial progress. With events like the Marianas March Against Cancer, we are continuing to raise critically needed funds in the fight against this deadly disease. The 2008 Marianas March Against Can-

cer will be held on May 16-17 at Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao from 6pm to 6am.

The Marianas March Against Cancer is the largest fundraising event in the CNMI to support cancer education and promote awareness. The event not only raises funds, it elevates awareness and encourages hope for those struggling with the disease. MMAC gives supporters an opportunity to honor and be with cancer survivors, and to remember those who have lost the battle against this terrible affliction. MMAC is

the signature fundraising event for the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-driven organization which ensures that all funds raised are applied *locally*. All funds raised will go towards the fight against cancer.

Thousands of people participated at last year's Marianas March Against Cancer where more than \$80,000 was raised. Participants walked, ran, and danced around the oval course for over 12 hours. The 2008 MMAC Committee is inviting the general public to attend this

important community event so the fight against cancer gets all the support needed. There will be games for children to play, live entertainment throughout the night, informational booths where cancer statistics will be available and raffle prizes to be won including free tickets to the U.S. and Asia courtesy of Northwest Airlines. Food and drinks will also be sold throughout the night. Bring all your friends and family down and support the battle against cancer!

In honor of all cancer survivors, there will be a dinner banquet held for survivors that evening.

The 2008 MMAC Title Sponsors are Duty Free Shoppers, PTI, Joeten Charitable Foundation, and Northwest Airlines. Major sponsors are Shell Marianas, Younis Arts Studio, Saipan Mayor's Office, and An-

gil Design. The MMAC Committee would like to thank all businesses, organizations and individuals who have supported MMAC in one way or another.

Cancer survivors are urged to contact Nora Sablan at 235-0998

or via email at norasablan@gmail.com or <mailto:norasablan@gmail.com>. For other MMAC inquiries, please email Chris A. Concepcion at chrisa.concepcion@gmail.com or Catherine Attao at attao20@yahoo.com or <mailto:attao20@yahoo.com>. (PR)

CIC expands business to Papua New Guinea

Century Insurance Company, a Saipan-based affiliate company of Tan Holdings Co., has become the first insurance company in the Micronesian Region to venture out to another part of the Pacific Region by expanding to the nation of Papua New Guinea.

After initial talks began with various PNG insurance officials in 2006, and subsequent meetings and paperwork was completed, the new company finally registered as CIC (PNG) Ltd and received its License approval from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on February 20, 2008. The Company will officially commence its operations on April 1, 2008 at Level 1 Aon Haus, McGregor Street,

Port Moresby.

CIC is rated B+ by A.M. Best & Co., is looking to diversify its business into less catastrophic area and will underwrite class of insurance such as Fire, Homeowners,



Auna-Toule

Marine Cargo and Hull, Motor, Workmen Compensation, Public Liability and other Casualty lines.

The Papua New Guinea non-life insurance market accounts for approximately US\$60m premium volume and has seen solid growth in earned premiums coupled with a strong underwriting performance over the period 2000 to 2005.

There are just 12 companies operating in the general insurance sector in PNG, of which 7

are foreign owned, 3 nationally owned and 2 joint ventures.

The introduction of CIC (PNG) Ltd will provide the nation of Papua New Guinea, with its population of 5.8 million people, an additional option for their insurance requirements.

The new company will be managed by Lorraine Auna-Toule, a certified insurance professional and fellow of the Australian & New Zealand Insurance Institute. Before joining CIC, she was technical manager for QBE Insurance (PNG) Limited based in Port Moresby, PNG.

CIC has operation in Guam through Aon Insurance Micronesia (Guam) Inc. as its managing general agent and has presence in Palau, Federated State of Micronesia, and Republic of Marshall Islands. (PR)



KICK BUTTS DAY

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Various presenters feature their Drug-Free programs at the Carolinian Affair's Office during the Department of Public Health Community Guidance Center's 4th Annual Kick Butts Day celebration Wednesday.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CNMI Statewide Independent Living Council



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, hereby giving notice that the State Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2008 2nd General membership meeting on April 9, 2008 at the Chamolinian Room, Hyatt Regency Saipan at 10:00AM. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Welcoming
- II. Preliminary Items
 - A. Review and Adoption of Agenda
 - B. Review and Adoption of Minutes
- III. Report
 - A. Chairperson
 - B. Trip Reports
 - C. OVR Director
Fiscal Status
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Membership Issues
 - B. Vacancy Status
- V. New Business
 - A. 2008 Resource Allocation Plan
 - B. Logo, SILC's Awareness materials & Activities/Website
 - C. 2008 Calendar for Meetings (including Rota and Tinian)
 - D. NCIL Conference
- VI. Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

Jerry McVicar

Jerry McVicar
SILC Chairperson

c/o Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
P.O. Box 506296 SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670)322-6538 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449 E-MAIL: Voc.Rehab@Saipan.Com

CAN YOU HELP?!

MIURA T-SHIRTS
NOW ON SALE

\$18



S. M. L. XL.

Assuming Mr. Kazuyoshi Miura's case is an unreasonable arrest and double jeopardy, our Japan high court judicial system is about to be overturned.

We are here to save our Japan judicial system by supporting Mr. Miura's Lawyers on this case. Part of the sales of the T-Shirts will be donated to Mr. Miura's Support Group.

We thank you in advance for your support.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

No more excuses for torture

WASHINGTON—Sometimes it's best to let an author's words speak for themselves. The following is from a March 2003 Justice Department memorandum on the legal standards governing military interrogations of terrorism suspects: "As we have made clear in other opinions involving the war against al Qaeda, the Nation's right to self-defense has been triggered by the events of September 11. If a government defendant were to harm an enemy combatant during an interrogation in a manner that might arguably violate a criminal prohibition, he would be doing so in order to prevent further attacks on the United States by the al Qaeda terrorist network. In that case, we believe that he could argue that the executive branch's constitutional authority to protect the nation from attack justified his actions. This national and international version of the right to self-defense could supplement and bolster the government defendant's individual right."

Translation: A U.S. interrogator could claim "national self-defense" if he was charged with the torture of a detainee, never mind the U.S. law against torture or international treaties prohibiting cruel, degrading or inhuman treatment of prisoners. The memo argues that interrogators acting under the president's authority could not be held accountable for mistreatment of detainees because the president is essentially above the law. Quoting from a 1937 Supreme Court decision, the memo claims that "applying general laws" against interrogators who use rough tactics on terrorism suspects would be as absurd as "the application of a speed law to a policeman pursuing a criminal or the driver of a fire engine responding to an alarm." And almost as an afterthought, the memo declares in Footnote 10 that the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable searches and seizures "had no application to domestic military operations."

These and other legal distortions were written by John C. Yoo, a former deputy in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel. The existence of the memo has long been known, and it was rescinded in December 2003. But it is nonetheless shocking to read what is an amalgamation of legal extremism and sloppy reasoning clearly meant to provide the president with justification to violate domestic and international prohibitions against torture.

The department has privately shared some memos deemed too sensitive for public consumption, including this one, with key lawmakers; there are ongoing discussions about whether other memos may also be made available in their entirety to those on Capitol Hill. This is a positive development, but it must yield results. Best of all would be the public release, whenever possible, of such memos, allowing members of the public to scrutinize them and freeing members of the administration and lawmakers to openly debate their merits. There can be no more excuses for the perpetuation of abominable legal doctrines that twist the law, tarnish the country's reputation and put at risk U.S. personnel, who may now be more vulnerable to torture because their government once claimed to find a way legally to excuse it.

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What are work ethics and how are yours?—Part 1

"The local people are lazy. They have no work ethics. It isn't the low pay or high pay. They just don't want to work. That's why we need non-resident workers. They have a high work ethic. They never complain....etc. etc."

On and on go these insulting remarks and degrading comments. Stop degrading our people and study the facts. Rarely does anyone stop to discuss and define exactly what "work ethics" are. Are they a set of inborn criteria exclusive only to a select group of people? Do only non-resident workers possess them? If so how did they acquire them? Or can work ethics be learned with proper motivation? Have work ethics evolved over the ages or have they always been the same?

It is so easy to hurl degrading remarks at the local workforce without understanding what we are saying. Walk awhile with me while we review what work ethics are and how they evolved through time adapting to changes. After our discussion, I firmly believe you will agree with me that anyone can develop a strong work ethic with the proper incentives and motivation. Work habits are taught, not inborn. Think of our own. Who molded our work ethics and how? Are ours so good? Why do some people have better work ethics than others? To improve we must understand what work ethics are and how they evolved.

"Work ethics include not only how one feels about his job, career or vocation, but also how one does his/her job or responsibilities. This involves attitude, behavior, respect, communication, and interaction; how one gets along with others. Work ethics demonstrate many things about whom and how a person is." This quote sums up the basics of a sound work ethic. How does one acquire such a wide range of traits that develop into a sound work ethic? Aren't these traits learned as most other things in our lives?

Work ethics are intrinsic; they come from within. Recall that the word "ethic" means the discipline concerning what is good and bad, moral duty and obligation; a theory or system of moral values. The word "work" means an activity in which one exerts strength or facilities to do or perform something; a sustained physical or mental effort to overcome obstacles and achieves an objective or result; usually associated with earning a livelihood. In plain words: "work ethic"—a belief in activity as a moral good. And morals come from religious beliefs. If we are to accept the above than it follows that work ethics come from God. God made

humans in His image, and His word proclaims these various work ethics—honesty, integrity, doing a job well, keeping things above board, and accountability factors.

What was likely an ideal work situation was disrupted when

By **ANTHONY PELLEGRINO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



sin entered the world and humans were ejected from the Garden of Eve. Genesis 3:19 described the human plight from that time on. "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

For much of the ancient history of the human race, work was hard and degrading. Working hard—without being forced—was not the norm for the Hebrew, Greeks, Romans, or medieval cultures. The Greeks, like the Hebrews, also regarded work as a curse. Manual labor was for slaves. The Greeks also denounced mental labor. The Greek word for work was *ponos* taken from the Latin *poena*, which meant "sorrow." The Romans also held manual labor in low esteem. They used slaves in large numbers to perform most of their daily labor including construction. The only two occupations suitable for a free man were agriculture and big business.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, a period emerged called the Middle Ages, from c.400AD until c.1400AD. Taking the philosophy of work from the Hebrew, Greek and Roman themes, work was still perceived as punishment from God for man's original sin. During this period categories or classes of work were defined. The Christian Church taught it was the duty of a worker to remain in his class, passing on his family work from father to son. Work did not have any intrinsic value. It was performed to meet the physical needs of one's family and community.

It was not until the Protestant Reformation that physical labor became culturally acceptable for all persons even the wealthy. Martin Luther and John Calvin introduced the concept that all men must work, even the rich, because to work was to do the will of God. This Protestant work ethic gave moral sanction to profit. Recall how later Benjamin Franklin became an example of diligence in work, scrupulous use of time, and deferment of pleasure. It became the popular philosophy of work in the Western World.

Stay with me a little longer. It gets a little complicated here. But once we understand, we can improve our skilled labor training

See **WHAT** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

They trained. They plotted. Then they bailed.

On Dec. 10, 2001, after completing his al-Qaida training in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Sajid Badat returned home to Britain. Badat, 22, a Muslim born in Gloucester, had an associate, a gangly man named Richard Reid, and the duo were now ready to carry out their mission: blowing up two separate aircraft traveling from Europe to the United States. Badat and Reid had been given identical explosive devices, specially designed to evade airport security and destroy an aircraft in mid-flight. On Dec. 22, Reid — now infamous as the “shoe bomber” — was jumped by his fellow passengers when he tried to light his device on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami. He got further than Badat, who simply bailed on the plot, leaving his dismantled bomb in his parents’ house.

Badat is now serving a 13-year sentence in a British prison. He told prosecutors that he decided to “get away from danger and introduce some calm in his life.”

Badat’s case sheds some light on a rarely considered question: Why do some terrorists drop out? We rightly think of al-Qaida and other jihadist groups as formidable foes, but the stories of would-be killers who bail give us some intriguing clues about fault lines that counterterrorism officials should exploit. The reasons for a change of heart can be strikingly prosaic: family, money, petty grievances. But they can also revolve around shaken ideology or lost faith in a group’s leadership.

It’s become a truism of counterterrorism that we must understand how and why individuals become jihadists in the first place. But almost nobody is studying the flip side of radicalization — understanding those who leave terrorist organizations. We’d do well to start. Figuring out why individuals walk away from terrorist groups can help governments predict whether an individual — or even a cell — is likely to go through with a plot. Understanding the drop-outs should also make it easier for governments to determine which terrorists might be induced to switch sides, help stop radicalization and craft messages that could peel away people already in terrorist organizations. The more we know about why terrorists bail, the better we can fight them.

So where to start? Despite al-Qaida’s reputation for ferocity and secrecy, plenty of wannabes wind up dropping out from it and its affiliates — not just the hapless Badat.

Consider the Sept. 11, 2001, plot. Even in Osama bin Laden’s

greatest triumph, not all of his recruiting efforts paid off. Two Saudis who were selected, Mushabib al-Hamlan and Saud al-Rashid, decided not to participate in the attacks after leaving the training camps in Afghanistan. And in the summer of 2001, Ziad Samir Jarrah, who became the hijacker pilot on United 93, agonized about whether to withdraw from the operation. In an emotional conversation, Ramzi Binalshibh — the Hamburg-based liaison between the plotting cell and al-Qaida’s senior leadership in Afghanistan — persuaded Jarrah to stay.

Al-Qaida prides itself on its esprit de corps, but key members have turned against the group from its earliest days. These include Jamal Ahmed al-Fadl, a Sudanese radical who was one of al-Qaida’s first members and helped work (unsuccessfully) in the early 1990s to procure uranium for the organization; Essam al-Ridi, an Egyptian veteran of the 1980s jihad against the Soviets who later purchased an airplane in the United States to help ship Stinger missiles from Pakistan to Sudan; and L’Houssaine Kherchtou, a Moroccan who trained to serve as bin Laden’s personal pilot. (All three became prosecution witnesses in the trial of the bombing of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in August 1998.)

Looking at al-Qaida dropouts, some clear patterns emerge. Some left after becoming disillusioned with the group’s tactics and strategy. Probably the unkindest cut from any former member was delivered by bin Laden’s fourth son, Omar bin Laden, who had spent nearly five years living in Afghan training camps. After 9/11, Omar quit al-Qaida, calling the attacks “craziness,” according to the journalist Peter Bergen. “Those guys are dummies,” bin Laden’s son said. “They have destroyed everything, and for nothing. What did we get from Sept. 11?”

Another factor driving jihadists to drop out is a general lack of respect for the group’s leadership. Ridi testified during the embassy bombings trial that he resented having to take battlefield orders during the Afghan jihad from bin Laden and others who lacked military experience. For Ridi, the final straw was a battle in which many jihadists died — in his view needlessly — thanks to inept leadership, but that al-Qaida nonetheless declared a victory. Jarrah, the 9/11 pilot, felt cut out by ringleader Mohamed Atta’s leadership style.

Another reason bad guys bail out is money. Like the rest of us, some terrorists see inadequate compensation as a sign of unfair treatment. Fadl, the Sudanese radical, fumed over his salary while al-Qaida was based in Sudan and began embezzling funds — stealing approximately \$100,000 from bin Laden, according to his testimony in the embassy bombings case. (When bin Laden got wind of Fadl’s theft, he ordered Fadl to repay the money; after forking over about \$30,000, Fadl fled, fearing retribution.)

Letter to the Editor

Dialogue that seeks solutions

As president of TAOTAO TANO I would like to address my fellow indigenous local Northern Mariana Descent people of the land on the issues that took place during a forum with the non-resident guest workers and foreign organizations such as DEKADA and MOV-ERS. I must emphasize that nothing was decided on the issue of granting CNMI residency status to long-term foreign guest workers here in our homeland, but rather as concerned citizens and advocates in the community we offered a door to a dialogue and a sit at the table to find better solutions to address and recognize the existence of long-term foreign guest workers whom have made the CNMI their home for many years. We are willing to set aside all our differences and set out a new course of direction to find solutions to this ongoing non-resident issues in our homeland for it is the right thing to do.

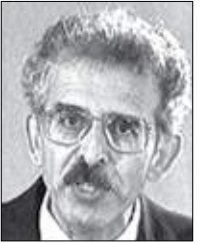
This was the second meeting that TAOTAO TANO had attended and each time I continue to address the issue of a complete stand down of statements being made out to the general public in the medias and establish a truce with the DEKADA organization and other worker organizations while we discuss this long-term residence issue for we are adults and reasonable people.

Rep. Tina Sablan now says she had already drafted a bill concerning the granting of CNMI residency status to foreign guest workers who had been residing in the CNMI for the past seven years. As president of TAOTAO TANO we completely disagree with this disrespectful approach. The residency issue is important to the local community and we deserve a chance to discuss it ourselves before someone tries to write a bill and tell us what to think. Tina Sablan says she wants to act now in 30 days before federalization happens and the federal government tries to take away the right of maximum self-government that our people negotiated for in the Covenant. She seems to forget that she was the frontline of the recent Unity March leading the foreign guest workers in support of a federal immigration and opposition to a good law 15-108 which we supported 110 percent. She has been telling foreign workers that federalization

By **MICHAEL JACOBSON**

Special to The Washington Post

Michael Jacobson, a former staff member of the 9/11 commission, is a senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.



Don’t forget the role of petty slights, either. Kherchtou grew bitter after a bin Laden aide turned down his request for \$500 to cover the costs of his wife’s Caesarean section — and grew livid when al-Qaida subsequently paid the expenses of a group of Egyptians sent to Yemen to renew their passports. “If I had a gun,” Kherchtou later testified, “I would shoot (bin Laden) at that time.”

The final factor seems to be good old family ties. Terrorists who maintain contact with friends and family outside their cell or organization seem more likely to drop out. This may be why Atta forbade the 9/11 hijackers to contact their families to say goodbye. The wobbliest of the hijackers, Jarrah, resisted al-Qaida calls to cut his ties with his fiancée in Germany and his family in Lebanon, souring his relationship with Atta, according to the 9/11 commission.

Something similar happened to two would-be 9/11 plotters, Rashid and Hamlan. Both men bailed out when they left the fanatical, insular atmosphere of the Afghan training camps and returned home to Saudi Arabia. After getting a visa to enter the United States, Hamlan contacted his family, despite clear al-Qaida instructions to the contrary. He found out that his mother was ill and decided not to return to Afghanistan, despite intense pressure from his handlers. Hamlan later moved back in with his parents and returned to college. Similarly, Badat, the would-be shoe bomber, appears to have decided to abandon the plot once he returned to Britain and resumed contact with his family.

There’s no obvious silver bullet here, of course. But the tales of the terrorists who weren’t are of more than academic interest. Counterterrorism officials have spent a great deal of effort trying to understand the process of radicalization that turns ordinary people into killers. But strikingly little work has been done on the flip side of the coin: on the factors that can turn a fanatical would-be killer into a somewhat chastened citizen. We’d do well to spend some time trying to understand how Mr. Hyde turns back into Dr. Jekyll. It might help us beat back a rising tide of radicalization — and win a war that is clearly not going well.

WHAT

From Page 10

problem in the CNMI.

When the Industrial Revolution started, the concept of the work ethic began to change again. In previous times, the idea prevailed that an individual could advance through life by his own efforts. This was now being replaced by machine manufacture and intensive division of labor. In the factories, skill and craftsmanship were replaced by discipline and anonymity. The trend was towards a semi-skilled labor force. The worker began to resemble the machine he was told to operate. Gradually the worker lost his humanness and his desire to work. Did you ever see the great silent movie “Modern Times” featuring the late Charlie Chaplin satirizing this inhuman treatment of humans as cogs in a machine?

By the end of World War II, scientific management and the behaviorist school began to disagree on the role of the worker. An adversarial relationship between employee and employer developed. Unions emerged further pitting management against workers. The behaviorist argued that workers were not lazy, while the scientific management argued that they were. If the work environment failed to provide a challenge, workers did become lazy, but if appropriate opportunities were provided, workers would become creative and motivated.

Remember that throughout history, work had been associated with pain, sacrifice, and drudgery. For the Hebrews as well as the medieval Christians, the unpleasantness of work was associated with Divine punishment for man’s sin. The Protestant ethic maintained that work was a sacrifice that demonstrated moral worthiness, and it stressed the importance of postponed gratification. Work hard now and enjoy life in Heaven.

With the coming of the information age, however, work came to be perceived as good and rewarding in itself. Soon we had white collar workers and blue collar workers. Each class tried to define his work ethic and searched for a sense of satisfaction. Quality and level of education came to play an important role in the type of work performed. Changes in gender and age of workers began to affect and influence the pattern of work related norms such as the work ethic.






Let’s pause here until next week when we will discuss how children and all of us are influenced by the attitudes of others towards work. If we understand the forces affecting us, we can improve the local work-force work ethics and attitudes. I know I learned my work ethics from my parents and other adults. Where did you learn yours? So we must teach our people the same way. Have a nice day until next week.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
TAOTAO TANO

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

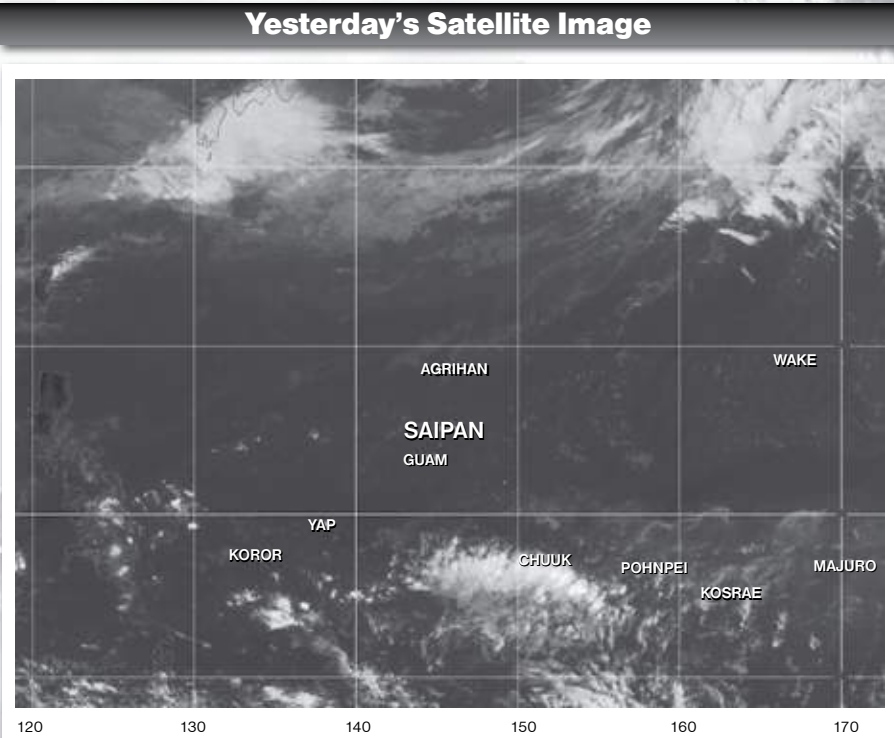
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼79°	▲83° ▼76°	▲83° ▼75°	▲82° ▼75°	▲83° ▼75°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Showers	▲88 ▼79
Palau	Cloudy	▲88 ▼76
Yap	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼79
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼79

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Cloudy	▲66 ▼52
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲77 ▼52
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼73
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲78 ▼71
London	Cloudy	▲45 ▼34
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲71 ▼52
Manila	Cloudy	▲91 ▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼56
Miami	Cloudy	▲85 ▼70
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲51 ▼40
Osaka	Rain	▲55 ▼48
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲45 ▼33
Pusan	Showers	▲63 ▼47
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲64 ▼52
Salem	Showers	▲49 ▼35
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲57 ▼46
Seoul	Cloudy	▲63 ▼43
Tokyo	Rain	▲56 ▼52
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲55 ▼43

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
2:19AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
7:54AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:42PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:12PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak cold front extends from 25N157E to 22N153E then continues as a shear line to CNMI at 19N146E to 18N140E. Scattered showers are occurring along and up to 50 miles northwest of the cold front and the shear line. Convergent winds coupled with an upper-level trough east of Wake Island are triggering scattered showers between 14N and 18N east of 172E and between 18N and 22N from 172E to 175E. Trade-wind convergence south of Chuuk is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 6N143E to 6N150E to 3N158E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:08AM	6:30PM	Today	6:33AM	7:37PM
Tuesday	6:08AM	6:30PM	Tuesday	7:22AM	8:42PM
Wednesday	6:07AM	6:31PM	Wednesday	8:17AM	9:49PM
Thursday	6:06AM	6:31PM	Thursday	9:17AM	10:55PM
Friday	6:06AM	6:31PM	Friday	10:20AM	11:58PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 27, 2008					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
Saipan-Rota			Rota-Saipan		
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am 3,4,7	CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam			Guam-Saipan		
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am 1,2,5,6	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am Daily
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota	CO9598	10:15am	11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm Daily	CO9600	10:45am	11:35am 3,4,5,7
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita			Narita-Saipan		
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm Daily via Nagoya	NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm Daily
NW 075	4:50pm	7:30pm Daily	NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka			Osaka-Saipan		
NW 083	4:20pm	7:10pm Daily	NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			Nagoya-Saipan		
NW 078	8:40am	11:25am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila			Manila-Saipan		
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm 6	CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm 6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm 3	CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul			Seoul-Saipan		
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm 2,4,6,7
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1 7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm 2,4,6,7	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan			Busan-Saipan		
OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila			Manila-Guam		
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror	CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm 2,7
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am 6	CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1 6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am 2,7	CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1 5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm Daily	CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Guam-Hongkong			Hongkong-Guam		
CO 909	6:50pm	9:35pm 1,5	CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota			Rota-Guam		
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am 1,2,6	CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am 3,4,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)					

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE				
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian				
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily	
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily	

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily	
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily	
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily	
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily	
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily	
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily	
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily	
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**				
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily	
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily	
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily	
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily	
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily	
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily	
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily	
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily	
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily	
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily	
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily	
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily	
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily	

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
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- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Business

Gas prices hit record on low supplies

NEW YORK (AP)—Retail gas prices surged to a new record above \$3.30 a gallon Friday and appear poised to rise further in coming weeks as gasoline supplies tighten.

Oil prices, meanwhile, supported the gas price rally by jumping more than \$2 a barrel after a dismal employment report sent the dollar lower.

At the pump, gas prices rose 1.4 cents overnight to a national average of \$3.303 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. That's the latest in a series of records, and about 60 cents higher than a year ago.

While oil's surge above \$100 over the last month has boosted gas prices so far this year, analysts now expect gas prices to continue rising regardless of what direction crude takes. The Energy Department expects prices to peak near \$3.50 a gallon later in the spring, but many analysts predict the spike could approach \$4.

That's because gasoline supplies are falling, in part because producers are cutting back on output of the fuel due to the high cost of crude—the more expensive crude is, the more refiners have to pay and the lower

their profits are. They're also in the process of switching over from producing winter grades of gasoline to the less polluting but more expensive grade of fuel they're required to sell in the summer.

"That cuts back on some of the supply and helps to pump up the price," said Mike Pina, a spokesman for AAA.

The margin between the price refiners pay for crude and receive for selling the products they make from it is around \$11 to \$12 a barrel right now, according to the Oil Price Information Service. However, that margin has occasionally



The posted gas prices at the Jeremy McDaniel Auto Service station in Yoncalla, Ore., were changed to an "Arm" for diesel and a "Leg" for premium unleaded on Monday, March 24, 2008. Station owner Jeremy McDaniel said he had the lettering made for his sign made after seeing a similar display in Reno. Diesel fuel at the Yoncalla gas station was actually selling for \$3.99 per gallon on Monday.

slipped into negative territory in recent weeks and is well below margins of \$37 a barrel refiners earned last spring.

On Thursday, ConocoPhillips said high crude prices were significantly hurting its refining margins. Last week, Valero Energy Corp. cut output at its Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery due to high supplies and falling demand. Analysts believe many other refiners are adopting similar tactics.

Friday's price spike is a sign those cutbacks may be working, giving everyone in the supply chain, from refiners to retailers, the ability to raise prices to try to boost margins. Many gas retailers say they make more on the sale of coffee and sundries in their convenience stores than from selling gasoline.

Of course, that's not good news for consumers also paying higher food prices and watching their home values slide. Food prices are high due in part to diesel prices, which held steady overnight at a national average of \$4.023 a gallon, near recent records.

High oil prices are also hurting airlines. Aloha Airlines shut down and ATA Airlines filed for bankruptcy protection in recent weeks, citing high fuel prices as a cause of their failures.

Wall Street undergoes big mood change

NEW YORK (AP)—With the start of a new quarter, Wall Street seems to have found something it badly needed: a major shift in sentiment.

Stocks punished during months of sharp losses were scooped up this past week as big investors like hedge funds returned to the market. And there's a sense that individual investors—who yanked their money from the stock market out of fear—might be on the verge of a comeback as well.

Certainly, worries about the economy and further calamities striking the world's investment banks haven't evaporated. What has changed is the way investors are looking at the market—simply, that stocks are more likely to go up than continue their precipitous declines—and

that allowed the stocks to hold on to most of their gains this past week. After the Dow Jones industrials rose 391 points on Tuesday alone, the stock market's best-known indicator ended the week up 393 points.

"Sentiment is the whole story, and what we're seeing is an improvement in sentiment," said Alfred Goldman, chief market strategist at Wachovia Securities. "I believe the market has bottomed, and eventually all the problems are baked into stocks and we can start looking beyond the valley to the peaks ahead."

He believes the best example of this was seen in the just the past five trading days. Tuesday's big rally came on the first day of the second quarter. Then came three days of disappointing

economic readings that stoked more fears of a recession, including a surge in jobless benefits claims and Friday's news that employers slashed 80,000 positions in March.

The data are clear signs that the economy is shrinking, and may well be in a recession. But, unlike previous weeks when the news would have sent the major stock averages skidding, investors barely flinched.

"The selling has been overdone," Goldman said.

Billionaire investor Warren Buffett might have had it right when he told shareholders a few years ago: "If they insist on trying to time their participation in equities, they should try to be fearful when others are greedy and greedy only when others are fearful."

Samsung chief questioned for 11 hours

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Special prosecutors probing claims of corruption at Samsung Group took their investigation to the very top, quizzing its chairman in a lengthy interrogation over allegations the conglomerate paid bribes and engaged in other illegalities. Lee Kun-hee, who has run South Korea's biggest industrial group for two decades, emerged early Saturday after nearly 11 hours spent in the office of the independent counsel examining the claims raised last year by a former Samsung lawyer. Surrounded by a throng of waiting reporters, the 66-year-old tycoon appeared to backtrack from the strong denials he made Friday afternoon upon arrival for questioning, when he said he had nothing to do with either directing the setting up of a slush fund or ordering the payment of bribes. "This is all due to my carelessness," Lee said. "I am responsible for everything and must take responsibility."

Volkswagen recalls 410,000 Passats

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Volkswagen Group of America Inc. says it's voluntarily recalling about 410,000 gasoline powered Passats because of potential problems including damage to a heat shield. Volkswagen announced the recall Friday, saying no accidents or injuries have been recorded related to the 1999 to 2005 model

year Passats. Some Passats with an automatic transmission may have an underbody heat shield that could be subject to damage. And some with 1.8T engines have a fuel line that requires potential replacement. Also, some all-wheel-drive Passats will be inspected for potential fuel tank ventilation valve damage. Volkswagen plans to notify owners of the recall, but says drivers who smell fuel should take the vehicle to a Volkswagen dealer or authorized repair shop.

Budget airline Skybus shutting down

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Low-cost carrier Skybus Airlines is shutting down Saturday and plans to file for bankruptcy protection next week, becoming the latest of the nation's airlines to fall because of rising fuel costs and a slowing economy. The announcement Friday came less than a year after Skybus started up at Port Columbus International Airport, offering several \$10 flights. The airline's situation worsened in recent weeks, said Skybus spokesman Bob Tenenbaum. Fuel prices and the worsening economy combined to be insurmountable for a new carrier, said chief executive Michael Hodge. "We deeply regret this decision, and the impact this will have on our employees and their families, our customers, our vendors and other partners, and the communities in which we have been operating," Hodge said in a statement.

GM may need to offer more help to Delphi

NEW YORK (AP)—This GM didn't need.

Besides slumping U.S. sales and a strike that has shut down 30 of its factories, the automaker may now be on the financial hook to help its former subsidiary and largest parts supplier, Delphi. Delphi's lifeline to exit bankruptcy was stalled after a private equity fund ended a deal for a \$2.55 billion cash injection on Friday.

The Appaloosa Management-led investment was an essential pillar in Delphi's reorganization, which has been complicated by a tight credit market. The loss of the deal puts Delphi Corp.'s

plan to exit bankruptcy at risk and raises the issue of whether General Motors Corp. would be forced to offer even more support than it is already giving.

"I would not be surprised to see additional forms of financial support from GM," Fitch Ratings analyst Mark Oline said. "It's been never-ending since the initial filing."

Standard & Poor's analyst Marc Eiger told investors that the sooner Delphi emerges from bankruptcy, the better off GM will be. He noted that GM recently increased the amount of loan money it offered to Delphi, and it "may need to provide more cash

to help Delphi emerge."

As for an equity deal, Appaloosa said it was still negotiating to invest in Delphi despite its refusal to do so under the terms of the existing agreement.

GM spokeswoman Renee Rashid-Merem said it was disappointed Appaloosa had withdrawn. "There has been a tremendous amount of effort and progress made to establish the foundation that would enable Delphi to emerge from Chapter 11," she said in a statement. "GM will continue to work with the involved parties to facilitate Delphi's efforts to emerge from bankruptcy."

Microsoft gives Yahoo deadline on offer

SEATTLE (AP)—Microsoft set the clock ticking for Yahoo to accept its \$41 billion buyout offer in a letter to the Internet pioneer's board Saturday, warning that if a deal wasn't reached by April 26 the software maker would launch a hostile takeover at a less attractive price.

"If we have not concluded an agreement within the next three weeks, we will be compelled to take our case directly to your shareholders, including the initiation of a proxy contest to elect an alternative slate of directors for the Yahoo board,"

wrote Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer.

"If we are forced to take an offer directly to your shareholders, that action will have an undesirable impact on the value of your company from our perspective which will be reflected in the terms of our proposal," he wrote.

A Yahoo spokeswoman declined to comment Saturday.

In the letter, Ballmer said Yahoo's search share and page views, two measures of the strength of the Web portal company's business, appear to have fallen since the offer was made

at the end of January. At the time, Microsoft's cash-and-stock offer was valued at \$44.6 billion, or 62 percent above Yahoo's market value. Judging by Friday's closing share prices, the deal is now worth just under \$41 billion.

Yahoo's board formally rejected Microsoft Corp.'s bid in February, saying it undervalues the company.

Since then, the Silicon Valley company has explored alliances with Google Inc., News Corp.'s MySpace.com and Time Warner Inc.'s AOL, but no alternative to Microsoft's offer has surfaced.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Campus divided over site of shootings

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Yellow police tape and wooden barricades no longer block the entrance to Northern Illinois University's Cole Hall, but it remains empty nearly two months after a gunman killed five students and himself there. With the painful memories still fresh at the university in DeKalb, students and faculty avoid the brick building. But as the campus of 25,000 students continues to grapple with Steven Kazmierczak's Valentine's Day killings that also left 18 wounded, it is also struggling to decide on the fate of Cole Hall and how to memorialize the slain students. University President John Peters initially wanted to tear down Cole and build a memorial in its place. Some students wanted the building razed, arguing that they should not have to face tragedy on a daily basis.

Spring break bus crash kills 1 in Minn.

ALBERTVILLE, Minn. (AP)—A bus carrying students and their chaperones home from a band trip to Chicago rolled over on a highway Saturday, killing one student and injuring the dozens of others on board, authorities said. The bus was traveling west on Interstate 94 about 30 miles northwest of Minneapolis when it rolled shortly before 6 a.m. and skidded into a ditch, said State Patrol dispatcher Tom Aspling. There were 48 people aboard, including the driver. Some students had arms and legs pinned under the bus when firefighters arrived, said State Patrol Lt. Mark Peterson. Rescuers spent hours freeing them. The cause of the crash near Albertville was being investigated. The roads at the time were dry. The bus was one of two carrying students from Pelican Rapids High School, according to the western Minnesota school's Web site. The State Patrol identified the victim as Jessica Weishair, 16, of Barnesville.

2 arrested with infrared cameras at LAX

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two men attempting to board a plane to China with nearly a dozen sensitive infrared cameras in their luggage were arrested on Saturday, a federal official said. Federal agents stopped the pair on the jetway as they were preparing to board the flight to Beijing. The men had been in the United States for about a week, said Rick Weir, assistant special agent in charge of the Los Angeles office of the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security. Yong Guo Zhi, a Chinese national, and Tah Wei Chao, a naturalized U.S. citizen, were arrested for investigation of trying to take thermal imaging cameras with potential military use to China without the proper export licenses, Weir said. Julie Salcido, a supervising agent with the Bureau of Industry and Security, said one of the men purchased the cameras, assuring the seller repeatedly that they were only for domestic use. "He repeatedly said he wouldn't export," she said.

Conflict escalates at polygamist retreat

ELDORADO, Texas (AP)—Sect leaders at a polygamist compound in West Texas refused Saturday to let authorities search a temple for a teenage girl whose report of abuse led to the raid, and authorities said they were preparing "for the worst."

If no agreement is reached with sect leaders, authorities will forcibly remove the sect's followers "as peaceably as possible," Allison Palmer, a prosecutor in Tom Green County, told the San Angelo Standard-Times.

Medical workers are being sent "in case this were to go in a way that no one wants," Palmer said. Law enforcers are "preparing for the worst," she said.

"Within the religion that we have encountered, their place of worship is very special to them," Palmer said. "It appears to be of great concern to them if a person from outside their congregation even attempts to step inside their place of worship."

A search warrant authorized troopers to enter the retreat, run by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They are looking for evidence of a marriage between the girl and a 50-year-old man.

Court documents the girl had a baby eight months ago, when she was 15.

State welfare officials on Friday removed 52 girls from the compound. Marleigh Meisner, a spokeswoman for Child Protective Services, said another 131



Officers stand at the entrance to the El Dorado Civic Center Friday, April 4, 2008, in El Dorado, Texas, after children were removed in the buses in the background from a nearby polygamist retreat. AP

residents were removed overnight. By Saturday afternoon, 137 children and 46 women were being housed and interviewed at local community centers.

"They seem to be doing fine," Meisner told The Associated Press. Investigators remained inside the compound looking for additional children, she said.

The whereabouts of the 16-year-old mother who sparked the investigation are unknown, Meisner said. State troopers who raided the religious retreat were looking for the girl, her baby girl and 50-year-old Dale Barlow.

Under Texas law, girls younger than 16 cannot marry, even with parental approval.

Officials in Texas declined to comment Saturday on whether they had found Barlow, citing a gag order, but the man's probation officer told The Salt Lake Tribune that he was in Arizona.

"He said the authorities had called him (in Colorado City, Ariz.) and some girl had accused him of assaulting her and he didn't even know who she was," said Bill Loader, a probation officer in Arizona.

Barlow was sentenced to jail time last year after pleading no

contest to conspiracy to commit sexual conduct with a minor. He was also ordered to register as a sex offender for three years while he is on probation.

His lawyer in that case, Bruce Griffen, said he had not spoken to Barlow in a year.

The search warrant instructed officers to look for marriage records or other evidence linking her to the man and the baby. The warrant authorized the seizure of computer drives, CDs, DVDs or photos.

Those inside the retreat did not respond to requests for comment.

Obama tailors message to western voters



BUTTE, Mont. (AP)—Hunting for votes out

West, Democrat Barack Obama on Saturday rejected the idea that the region's sparsely populated states aren't important in the presidential race and renewed his promise to appoint a high-level adviser on Indian issues if elected.

Obama also cast his usual message in more Western-friendly terms, talking about clean-coal technology as a way of protecting Montana's beautiful mountains and civil liberties as part of the state's tradition of independence.

An Obama supporter had scolded all the presidential candidates earlier for not addressing Western issues.

Montana and neighboring states have only a handful of delegates, but every one of them is valuable as Obama seeks to keep Hillary Rodham Clinton from narrowing his lead heading toward the nomination convention.

Obama, speaking at the Montana Democrats' annual Mansfield-Metcalf Dinner, mocked the suggestion from Clinton's campaign earlier this year that his lead

Clinton renews call to count Fla., Mich.

HILLSBORO, Ore. (AP)—Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton on Saturday strengthened her pitch to allow the results of disputed primaries in Michigan and Florida to be counted in the nominating contest, noting the vote totals had been officially recognized in each state.

"Some say their votes should be ignored and the popular vote in Michigan and Florida should be discounted. Well, I have a different view," Clinton said at a rally here. "The popular vote in Florida and Michigan has

already been counted. It was determined by election results, it was certified by election officials in each state, it's been officially tallied by the secretary of state in each state, and the question is whether those 2.3 million Democrats will be honored and their delegates seated by the Democratic party."

Both the Michigan and Florida primaries were essentially nullified after they were moved into January in violation of national Democratic party rules. The party voted to strip both states of their delegates and all

is suspect because he won lightly contested small states that hold caucuses while losing some big states with primary elections.

"There are people saying Obama wins all these little states, all these caucus states, these small little Western states. I don't know about you, but I think they're pretty important," Obama told the crowd of 4,000.

And in a state where more than 6 percent of the population is American Indian, Obama talked

about improving health and education for Indians. He promised to appoint a senior White House adviser on the subject and host an annual meeting of tribal leaders.

The campaign noted that Obama released a position paper involving Western issues before the Nevada primary earlier this year and has also spelled out his views on hunting and other rural concerns.

Even Obama's standard stump speech took on a Western tone.

the candidates, including Clinton and rival Barack Obama, signed a pledge not to campaign in either state.

Obama and several other Democratic candidates also removed their names from the Michigan primary ballot.

Both states saw record turnout in their primaries and the former first lady won both contests. Her campaign has pressed hard for the results to be recognized, even as the Obama campaign has argued Clinton is trying to circumvent rules she agreed to long ago.

He acknowledged his support of clean-energy technology might worry voters in a region that produces lots of coal.

"I know Montana's a coal state. My home state, Illinois, is a coal state, but we've got to make sure that we are investing in technologies that capture carbon because we can't sustain the planet the way that we're doing it right now," Obama said, speaking to 8,000 people at a college arena in Missoula.

Pope will find diverse church in US

NEW YORK (AP)—In his visit this month to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI will find an American flock wrestling with what it means to be Roman Catholic.

The younger generation considers religion important, but doesn't equate faith with going to church. Many lay people want a greater say in how their parishes operate, yet today's seminarians hope to restore the traditional role and authority of priests.

Catholic colleges and universities are trying to balance their religious identity with free expression, catching grief from liberals and conservatives in the process.

Immigrants are filling the pews, while whites are leaving them. Nearly one-third of U.S. adult Catholics are now Hispanic, and they worry about being considered a separate, ethnic church.

Despite these divisions, Catholics across the spectrum of belief have been energized by the pope's trip. The man who was once responsible for

enforcing adherence to Catholic doctrine isn't likely to do much scolding. Instead, he's expected to recognize the relative vibrance of the American church, while emphasizing core Catholic values: the reality of absolute truth, the relationship between faith and reason, love for the faith.

"I think he's going to come in and try to inspire. As pope, he's really taken the positive track on a lot of issues. I don't think there's any reason he wouldn't continue to do so now," said Dennis Doyle, a theologian at the University of Dayton, a Marianist school in Ohio.

Benedict has traveled to seven other countries since he was elected in 2005, but a papal journey to the U.S. is like no other because of the church's size and influence.

In a nation founded by Protestants, Catholics comprise nearly one-quarter of the population. Catholic America is the biggest donor to the Vatican. The U.S. also is home to more than 250 Catholic colleges and universities.

Asia

Nepal prepares for end of monarchy

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—It was a surprising sight in a land grown accustomed to surprises: the king at the wheel of a Mercedes-Benz, driving himself and his queen through the crowded streets of Katmandu.

"He was in the front seat! In traffic!" said Krishna Chetri, a 56-year-old shop owner.

"Where's the majesty?" he asked. "This is something I never would have believed."

In this Himalayan land, the Shah dynasty of kings reputed to be reincarnated Hindu gods is being pushed to possible extinction by the fallout from a decade-long communist rebellion and King Gyanendra's own autocratic ways.

Nepal votes Thursday for

an assembly that will rewrite its constitution, the latest effort to transform a troubled, near-medieval land into a modern democracy.

And the assembly's first order of business: eliminating the monarchy.

"This king has done too much harm. He's shown us that we don't need kings," said Krishna Prasad Sitaula, a cabinet minister and a leader of the centrist Nepali Congress party who helped negotiate the peace deal with the rebels, known as the Maoists.

Not everyone is so sure.

"This king lost the people's favor," said Ram Shrestha Prasad, a 42-year-old priest at the Pashupatinath Temple, the

clamorous shrine to which Gyanendra drove last month.

But "this talk of a secular republic is ignorant," he said. "Our kings created Nepal. They protect our Hindu religion. The kings are the symbol of Nepal."

Yet in many demonstrative ways, Gyanendra's 269-year-old Shah dynasty has reached the end of the line.

In January, Nepal's interim parliament formally declared the country a secular republic. Gyanendra's portrait has disappeared from shop walls and the currency. "Royal" has been removed from the name of the army and national airline. References to the king are gone from the national anthem.

Gyanendra has also endured

other indignities. His \$3.1 million annual allowance and 10 of the family's palaces were taken away, as were the queen's beauticians and about half his ceremonial guard.

Gyanendra can probably

afford the losses. Before assuming the throne, he was known as a hardheaded businessman with interests in tourism, tea and tobacco.

He can also afford to hire his own driver, and did his own

driving to show that he is at the people's disposal in what ever role it chooses, said a palace official who spoke anonymously because the government has told Gyanendra not to make public statements.



Nepalese men attend an election rally for United Marxist-Leninist party Saturday April 5, 2008, in Katandu, Nepal.

Rogge: Beijing smog may affect athletes

SINGAPORE (AP)—Beijing's heavy pollution may hurt the performances of athletes in this summer's Olympic Games, although it will not endanger their health, International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge said Saturday.

The IOC in recent months has acknowledged the possibility that athletes' performances may be affected by China's pollution. But Chinese leaders have made repeated assurances that Beijing's notorious smog will be solved before the Olympic Games begin.

"The health of the athletes is absolutely not in any danger," Rogge said Saturday. "It might be that some will have to have

a slightly reduced performance, but nothing will harm the health of the athletes. The IOC will take care of that."

Rogge was asked to comment on the decision by Haile Gebrselassie, the world's greatest distance runner, not to run the men's marathon in Beijing because of worries over pollution.

"Haile Gebrselassie is arguably the best long-distance runner of the present generation," Rogge said, adding however, the runner is "slightly asthmatic."

Rogge was not ruling out the possibility that Gebrselassie could change his mind nearer to the date.

"He decided so far—I'm saying so far because we don't know

how things will evolve—not to participate in the marathon," he said. "I would say, wait and see ... when he sees the data that we are providing for them."

Rogge had previously said outdoor events in August's games could be delayed if the air quality was too poor.

Pollution—in addition to the violence in Tibet and other human rights issues—had been a major concern for China and the International Olympic Committee in the leadup to the Aug. 8-24 Olympics. Some athletes are reportedly considering wearing masks to ward off the bad air in Beijing, while many will delay their arrival in China's capital until the last possible moment.

China to beef up 'patriotic' education

BEIJING (AP)—China vowed Saturday to ramp up a campaign requiring Tibetan Buddhist monks to denounce the Dalai Lama and declare their loyalty to Beijing.

But resentment over "patriotic education" has ignited protests that have left eight people dead in recent days in a southwestern province and could fuel future unrest despite a massive security presence aimed at quelling the demonstrations.

The Tibet Daily newspaper reported Saturday that the government pledged to "strengthen patriotic education" especially among young monks to help them "become

patriotic, religion-loving and law-abiding."

"We should strengthen patriotic education so as to guide the masses of monks to continuously display the patriotic tradition and uphold the banner of patriotism," the paper quoted

Hao Peng, Tibet's deputy Communist Party chief, as saying.

China has been using the much-reviled practice of enforcing patriotism education for more than a decade in an attempt to exert greater control over religion. The practice requires monks to do ritual denunciations of their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and accept the Chinese-appointed Panchen Lama, the second-highest ranking Buddhist leader.

The campaign had exacerbated tensions in Tibet in the months before anti-government demonstrations exploded in mid-March in the region's capital, Lhasa, and neighboring provinces.



Myanmar warns of 'terrorist' bomb plans

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's state-run press warned Saturday that "terrorists" may be planning bombings during the country's constitutional referendum next month, suggesting the alleged plots are linked to the nonviolent movement of detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party—which is urging voters to reject the military junta's proposed constitution as an undemocratic sham—rejected the allegations.

Saturday's commentary in the state-owned New Light of Myanmar and other newspapers said a

youth member of the NLD was arrested with explosives last month, and that it had been learned that "that terrorists will target busy places and strategic places to create public panic."

It could be "deduced," the commentary said, that subversive elements were planning terrorist acts during the annual Water Festival starting April 11 and at polling places for the referendum.

"Now, terrorist insurgents are active under the pretext of democracy movements," it said.

Articles carried in state-run newspapers generally reflect the viewpoints of the military government.

Nyan Win, a spokesman for the NLD, said that he did not want to comment on the column but that he did not know of any of his party's members being arrested with explosives.

The NLD has been known for its promotion of nonviolent change. Its leader, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Suu Kyi, has been in detention without trial for more than 12 of the past 18 years.

Myanmar has seen several mostly small-scale bombings in the past few years. The government has blamed the attacks on separate ethnic rebel groups seeking autonomy based on the border with Thailand.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan's oldest person dies at 113

TOKYO (AP)—Kaku Yamanaka, Japan's oldest person, has died of old age in central Japan, officials said Saturday. She was 113. Yamanaka died at a hospital where she was taken early Saturday after falling ill at a nursing home in Yatomi City in Aichi prefecture (state), an official at her nursing home said on condition of anonymity, citing policy. Born on Dec. 11, 1894, Yamanaka became Japan's oldest person when Tsuneyo Toyonaga, 113, died in February. It was not immediately clear who had become Japan's new oldest person, and Health Ministry officials were not available for comment Saturday. Yamanaka was known for her love of singing and took part in local karaoke contests, the nursing home official said. Japan has one of the world's longest average life spans—a factor often attributed to a healthy diet rich in fish and rice. In 2006 Japanese women set a new record for life expectancy at 85.81 years, while men live an average of about 79 years.

Explosion in Sri Lanka kills minister

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A suicide bomber struck the opening ceremony of a marathon outside Sri Lanka's capital Sunday, killing a government minister and nine other people, authorities said. Officials blamed the bombing, the

second this year resulting in the death of a government minister, on Tamil Tiger rebels. Minister of Highways and Road Development Jeyaraj Fernandopulle, who was opening the race 12 miles outside the capital, Colombo, was among those killed by the suicide bomber, government spokesman Anusha Paltipa said. Nine other people died and 25 were wounded, according to a police official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press. Fighting in Sri Lanka has increased in recent months amid government promises to capture the rebels' de facto state in the north and crush the group by the end of the year.

Ousted Afghan lawmaker fights to return

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An outspoken female Afghan lawmaker who was kicked out of parliament says she has hired a lawyer and is fighting back. Lawmakers dismissed Malalai Joya from parliament last May after she compared the lawmaking body to a stable full of animals. Joya on Saturday said her lawyer has met with the chief justice of Afghanistan's Supreme Court. She says the country's constitution does not allow lawmakers to throw her out of parliament. Joya, a women's rights worker from Farah province, rose to prominence in 2003 when she branded powerful Afghan warlords as criminals.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Communist Cuban solution: private farms

GUIRA DE MELENA, Cuba (AP)—In a country where almost everyone works for the communist state, dairy farmer Jesus Diaz is his own boss. He likes it that way—and so does the government. Living on a plot of land just big enough to graze four dairy cows, Diaz produces enough milk to sell about four quarts a day to the state. This is independent production on a tiny scale, but it has proved so efficient that Cuba has decided on a major expansion of its program to distribute underused and fallow farmland to private farmers and cooperatives. “It’s a way for the land to end up in the hands of those who want to produce. I see it as a very good thing,” said Diaz, 45. He received his land and cows from the state in 1996, and now hopes to get access to more property. The government is preparing for a “massive distribution of land,” Orlando Lugo, president of Cuba’s national farming association, said last week. Private farmers have begun receiving land for the cash crops of coffee and tobacco, and will soon be able to lease state land for other crops. The idea is to revolutionize farming, one tiny plot at a time.

Israeli, Palestinian leaders to meet

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli and Palestinian leaders will resume their regular meetings on Monday to review progress in U.S.-backed efforts to work out a peace deal by year’s end, a Palestinian negotiator said Saturday. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas had called off his meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert at the beginning of March in response to an Israeli anti-rocket raid on the Gaza Strip that killed 120 people, dozens of them civilians. The leaders had committed to meet every two weeks, but they last met Feb. 19. Abbas and Olmert will talk in the meeting about how much each side has done to meet its peace obligations, negotiator Saeb Erekat said. An Israeli official said he expected the leaders to meet at the beginning of the week. He said Olmert had wanted to resume the talks earlier, but Abbas had refused. He spoke on condition of anonymity because Olmert’s office had not yet issued an official statement.

Rebel’s death hinders Betancourt rescue

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—A French-led mission to free hostage Ingrid Betancourt in Colombia may fail because officials cannot find any rebels to talk to about her release. The insurgents are in hiding, their main contact with the outside world is dead and Interpol has an arrest notice out for a top guerrilla leader. Only a few years ago, Colombian rebel leaders were easily found in the towns and fields of southern Colombia as they talked peace with the government. After peace talks with rebels collapsed in 2002, commanders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, disappeared into the jungle, leaving a bearded, diminutive rebel known as Raul Reyes as their public face. Reyes was killed on March 1 in a Colombian military raid on a FARC camp across the border in Ecuador that triggered a regional crisis, with Ecuador, backed by Venezuela and Nicaragua, complaining the attack violated its sovereignty.

Analysis: Iraqi PM wins rare support

BAGHDAD (AP)—Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s faltering crackdown on Shiite militants has won the backing of Sunni Arab and Kurdish parties that fear both the powerful sectarian militias and the effects of failure on Iraq’s fragile government.

The emergence of a common cause could help bridge Iraq’s political rifts.

The head of the Kurdish self-ruled region, Massoud Barzani, has offered Kurdish troops to help fight anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr’s Mahdi Army militia.

More significantly, Sunni Arab Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi signed off on a statement by President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, and the Shiite vice president, Adil Abdul-Mahdi, expressing support for the crackdown in the oil-rich southern city of Basra.

Al-Hashemi is one of al-Maliki’s most bitter critics and the two have been locked in an acrimonious public quarrel for a year. Al-Hashemi has accused the prime minister of sectarian favoritism and al-Maliki has complained that the Sunni vice president is blocking key legislation.

On Thursday, however, al-Maliki paid al-Hashemi a rare visit. A statement by al-Hashemi’s office said the vice president told al-Maliki that “we can bite the bullet and put aside our political differences.”

“The main aim at this critical juncture is to ensure that our political choices are made in Iraq’s interest,” al-Hashemi said.

Shiite militias were responsible for the deaths of thousands of Sunni Arabs in the sectarian bloodletting of 2006 and 2007. The Mahdi Army is blamed for much of the killing.

Bush, Putin say goodbye



U.S. President George Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin look forward during their meeting at Putin’s summer residence in Sochi, Russia, Saturday, April 5, 2008. AP

SOCHI, Russia (AP)—With time running out on an often testy seven-year relationship, President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin are taking on a lot of unfinished business in their final leader-to-leader meetings Sunday.

The White House has ruled out chances of resolving differences over U.S. missile defense plans for Europe, but the two men hope to chart a course for better ties between Washington and Moscow after they leave office: Putin next month and Bush in January.

When they meet formally Sunday, Bush will also have his first in-depth talks with Putin’s

hand-picked successor, Dmitry Medvedev, who takes charge in Moscow on May 7.

The presidents were all jokes, smiles and handshakes when they greeted each other at Putin’s holiday dacha in this Black Sea resort before a lavish social dinner Saturday.

Yet behind what both sides say is a warm personal friendship, the list of contentious U.S.-Russia issues is a long one, even leaving out the missile shield dispute.

Russia’s vehement opposition to NATO’s eastward expansion into its backyard, divergent policies in the volatile Balkans, and U.S. complaints of increasing

Kremlin authoritarianism and democratic backsliding will all feature on the agenda, officials say.

Still, Putin and Bush are expected to announce a new “strategic framework” to guide future U.S.-Russia relations in four broad areas: security, curbing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, counterterrorism and economic matters.

The document could include a reference to possible future cooperation on missile defense, but far less than what the Bush administration would have liked, especially after offering numerous concessions to ease Russian concerns with little

Zimbabwe opposition reluctant on runoff

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai called Saturday on President Robert Mugabe to step down and accused the country’s longtime ruler of plotting a campaign of violence to bolster his chances of winning an expected runoff.

The state-run Sunday Mail newspaper said Mugabe’s ruling ZANU-PF party had requested a recount of the March 29 presidential election because of “errors and

miscalculations in the compilation of the poll result.” The party also asked the Electoral Commission to defer the announcement of the presidential election results because of the “anomalies,” the paper reported in its online edition.

Amid increasing signs of a government crackdown, armed police barred opposition officials Saturday from filing a suit demanding the publication of the results from the presidential

vote. The opposition promised to try again Sunday.

“Mugabe must accept that the country needs to move forward. He cannot hold the country to ransom. He is the problem not the solution,” said Tsvangirai, head of the Movement for Democratic Change.

Tsvangirai accused ZANU-PF of “preparing a war against the people,” and said a runoff was unnecessary because he had won the presidential elec-

Russia has first post-Soviet baby boom

MOSCOW (AP)—When they decided to have their first child, Alexander Gorlov and Laila Simanova discovered that something new was afoot in post-Soviet Russia: a baby boom.

Simanova, 31, now five months pregnant, said she was surprised by how many of her friends were becoming pregnant as well. When she signed up with the Pre-Natal Medical Center in Moscow, she found it swamped with expectant mothers.

“The doctors said when they opened two years ago, we could have played football in the halls,” she said. “Now there are queues. When you call you can’t get through. The line is always busy.”

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia’s population plummeted, and until recently was shrinking at the rate of about 750,000 people a year.

So the Kremlin made kids a priority. A 2007 law expanded maternity leave benefits and payments, and granted mothers educational and other vouchers worth \$10,650 for a second child and any thereafter. More important, perhaps, Russia’s surging economy has made it possible for young couples to plan for their future.

The population decline hasn’t halted, and demographers warn it could plummet again. But today births are on the rise, from 1.4 million in 2006 to 1.6 million in 2007—their highest level in 15 years.

Both Gorlov and Simanova, who lived together for years before their recent marriage, say their decision to start a family was deeply personal. But Simanova noted the public service ads on television every night that showcase big families and praise the virtues of adopting children. And she suspects this may have played a role in her current plan to have three children and adopt a fourth.

“They are promoting families, they are promoting babies, and somehow this message is getting through,” she said.

tion outright.

“In the runoff, violence will be the weapon. It is therefore unfair and unreasonable for President Mugabe to call a runoff,” he said, accusing Mugabe of mobilizing armed militias.

Tsvangirai’s party claims he won 50.3 percent of the vote, but independent projections have shown that he won the most votes but not the 50 percent plus one needed for an outright victory.

Health & Fitness

Fitness goes techno

By JEANNINE STEIN
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The future of exercise is here—and it's heavy on the techno.

Fitness equipment is catching up with tech-savvy, gadget-loving exercisers who are downloading workouts onto their iPods, wearing heart-rate monitors and logging the miles they've run to continually fine-tune their workouts.

For gym rats, the latest cardio and strength machines will do much of the work for them, allowing users to customize workouts and compile their fitness data on home computers so they can keep a close watch on their progress. For example, someone could plug a USB stick into an elliptical trainer, work out, save the information to the USB and download that into a home computer. From there, a new workout can be designed with specific time and intensity, then downloaded into the elliptical next time, programming the machine to go at that pace. By tracking workouts, exercisers can see whether they're progressing, or need to work harder to achieve their goals.

Some of the machines work directly with iPod Nanos, which can track workouts with the help of a sensor built into a shoe. Easy-to-navigate touch screens are replacing boring, old-school LED readouts. One company introduced a weight machine equipped with an instructive video to demonstrate proper form and speed for various exercises, perfect for those who need strength-training tutorials.

This growing technology in the fitness world may be a boon to exercisers, says Randy Drake, senior vice president of community and corporate development for 24 Hour Fitness.

"Exercise and how you take

care of yourself has to extend beyond the four walls of a gym. This is a great way to reinforce that." He also noted that, years from now, computer-driven fitness will be inevitable: "This is going to be completely natural—taking your workout with you, customizing it on your terms, setting goals and having that portability."

The latest in fitness equipment debuted at the International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association's annual International Trade Show held recently in San Diego, where shiny, sleek, state-of-the-art machines enticed health-club owners looking for the latest gear. The computer-savvy crowd and tech types who love new tools probably will be the most enthusiastic early users. Other exercisers may come to appreciate the possibilities more gradually.

"When your friend says he's getting a great workout because he's using his iPod and it interfaces with a piece of equipment, more and more people are going to start using that type of technology," says Joe Moore, the association's president and chief executive. "It makes sense. It's a natural progression."

And for some—say those who simply want to exercise without knowing how many steps they climbed—touch screens can



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Fitness equipment has touch-screen technology.

morph into television screens. If there's nothing good on TV, members can plug in iPods and download their own music or video content. Because watching a bank of communal televisions is so five minutes ago.

Although the show didn't un-

veil the Next Great Thing in big cardio machines, ellipticals at least will become more appealing. Their repetitive, if easy-on-the-joint, motions allow for varying strides. One machine allows exercisers to just move the handles back and forth, creating

an upper body workout, and help stave off boredom.

A glimpse of what might be coming to a gym near you:

■ Computers are an exerciser's new best friend. Life Fitness' Elevation series of cardio equipment allows users to save their workouts to a USB stick, then download that information into a special Web site where they can monitor the workout length, distance and intensity. They also can customize workouts by pre-programming the same variables on a computer, then downloading those into a machine. Music and videos from iPods can be downloaded into the machines as well.

Star Trac offers software with a series of pre-designed cardio and strength programs that allows users to track their progress. Gyms will sell the software-loaded USB sticks to members, who can plug them into Star Trac's E Series cardio equipment and its new Koko strength-training machines, then download the in-

formation at home on their computers. Those Koko machines also contain video screens that show users how to do exercises with proper form and speed.

The Nike Plus system is being expanded to include indoor exercisers. Nike already has

footwear containing a sensor that relays information to the exerciser's iPod Nano, which can then be downloaded into a computer to track progress. Until recently it was used outdoors only. Now Life Fitness, Star Trac, Precor and Technogym have incorporated the technology into select machines so that workouts can be monitored in the gym as well.

■ Elliptical trainers have long been one of the favorite pieces of cardio equipment among gym rats—so popular that veteran users are getting bored doing the same rotating movements over and over again. A few years ago some machines were engineered to allow changes in stride length, but transitions were jerky and uncomfortable. Now kinks have been worked out, and machines run as smooth as butter.

They can do other things as well. True's new CSX elliptical allows users to step off the pedals and onto fixed side panels, then move just the handles back and forth to get a better upper-body workout.

It joins Precor's Adaptive Motion Trainer, which features variable pedals that can go from a traditional elliptical rotation to more of a marching motion.

■ Johnny G, the father of Spinning, has come back into the gym with the Krank cycle. It looks like a Spin cycle but—instead of pedals—has hand cranks that can be turned together or independently. Kranking, says Jim Karanas, who led classes at the show, provides a great cardio workout while toning the upper body and working core muscles. He says it's also useful for the extremely obese and people with lower-body injuries.

Veteran gymgoers such as Drake can't help but notice the popularity of iPods and other techno-gadgets becoming as much a fixture in gyms as dumbbells. "We've felt a certain critical mass happening over the last 18 months," he says, "and we love the evolution of it."

Very obese wait longer for transplant

BALTIMORE (AP)—Very obese people who need a kidney transplant are far less likely to get one than normal weight people, and when they do, their wait is an average of a year to 18 months longer, a new study found.

The reason seems to be both economic and medical. Very obese people have a greater risk for complications, and the transplant centers often must bear the additional cost of treating those problems.

The study showed that morbidly obese patients—those who average about 100 pounds over their ideal weight—were 44 percent less likely to get a transplant than normal weight patients. Those just slightly

less obese were 28 percent less likely to get a transplant, the researchers found.

The results also mean very obese patients are more likely to die; each year about 8 percent of all patients waiting for a transplant die.

The research was based on an analysis of records of 132,353 patients on the national kidney transplant waiting list between 1995 and 2006. The work was published Wednesday in the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*.

Obesity can be a reason to exclude a potential transplant recipient because of the risk for complications.

However, once someone

has been accepted for the waiting list, that patient is supposed to progress to the top as time passes, said Dr. Dorry Segev, the Johns Hopkins University transplant surgeon who led the study.

Segev said he did not believe doctors or transplant staff were consciously choosing slimmer candidates over obese patients. However, he said two factors may be combining to create the bias.

The main insurer for kidney transplants, Medicare, pays a fixed rate regardless of the difficulty of each case, meaning the transplant hospital bears the burden of added costs for complications. And transplant cen-

ters with lower survival rates risk losing Medicare funding.

"I don't think any of this is conscious," Segev said. "It would be hard to imagine any of us in our field would deliberately act against the welfare of our patients. That's not what we do, but there are all sorts of subconscious forces that are happening and there's clearly an unintended bias in practice."

Segev's group found the wait to get a transplant increased along with the patient's body mass index, a height-weight formula. Non-obese patients waited on average 39 months, the overweight waited 40 months, the obese waited 42 months, and the severely and morbidly obese, waited 51 and 59 months, respectively, the re-

searchers found.

Transplant centers normally won't give an organ to a patient with a body mass index over 40, which is morbidly obese, said Dr. Benjamin Philosophe, head of transplantation division at the University of Maryland Medical Center. Such patients are at higher risk for a number of complications.

However, Philosophe said he and many doctors "will give them the benefit of the doubt that they will lose the weight and will put them on the list hoping that while they lose that weight they will accumulate waiting time."

Patients who fail to lose weight can be placed on inactive status, Philosophe said.

Also clouding the issue is the

fact the database maintained by the United Network for Organ Sharing does not capture all details on patient condition, said Dr. Kenneth Andreoni of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, vice chairman of the UNOS kidney transplantation committee.

For example, whether a candidate has diabetes is simply a yes or no checkoff. The lack of more detail on diabetes and other conditions can make it difficult to draw conclusions, he said.

The UNOS official noted that obese patients who never would have been referred for a transplant in the past are now put on the waiting list and rules changes have taken effect over the 11 years studied.

Life & Style

A night of Rose Reds & Rendezvous at the Hyatt



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Local guests test their wine-tasting expertise during the evening of "Rose Reds and Rendezvous" hosted by Triple J Five Star Wholesale and Pacific Trading at the Giovanni's Restaurant of Hyatt Regency Saipan Thursday.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The event offered remarkable wine & food experience for the guests.

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

Triple J Five Star Wholesale and Pacific Trading Co. hosted an evening of "Rose Reds and Rendezvous" Friday night.

The tasting of certified Angus Beef and Kendall-Jackson wines was the excuse of 125 people for throwing a fine party at the Giovanni's Restaurant, Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Wine glasses overflowed with Kendall-Jackson's grand selection of chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon, pinot noir and merlot.

All the while, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef

Gabrielle Colombo refused to cease the appetites of Friday evening's guests with his gastronomic creations using certified Angus Beef and that many can vouch was sensory love at first taste.

Flank steak fajitas, beef bruschettas, Thai beef with fresh spring rolls, beef pastas, beef kabobs, and sirloin sushi complimented several stations that the was created at the event.

One of the major highlights of Friday night's event was the monolithic, beautifully aged 32-ounce Tomahawk Chop that was brought all the way from the mainland especially for the event.

According to Friday night's host Jay Santos, the night "was an absolute success. We are all very pleased with the turnout and the positive feedback we got from everybody."

"People were very thankful that we hosted such an event. It gives people something to do," Santos said.

The Hyatt Regency Saipan is featuring certified Angus Beef paired with Kendall-Jackson wine in its restaurants' menu throughout the month of April.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Bottles of selected wines from Kendall-Jackson are perfectly displayed during the event.

Giovanni's Italian Restaurant will finish the first week of April, followed by the Tepan-yaki and then Kili Terrace.

Hyatt Regency Saipan's chef will be creating the menu for April's certified

Angus Beef and Kendall Jackson wine highlights.

Triple J Five Star Wholesale is the exclusive distributor for certified Angus Beef and Pacific Trading is the distributor for Kendall-Jackson wine.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Appetizing creations using certified Angus Beef were served to the guests during the event.

Kenny Loggins' son ready to 'Rock'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Crosby Loggins—son of Kenny Loggins—didn't originally want to "Rock the Cradle."

"I was apprehensive at first," Loggins told The Associated Press backstage Thursday at the new MTV reality show starring the offspring of famous musicians. "I turned it down three times. They kept coming back to me saying, 'We really want you to be part of this. We're not here to make fun of you or belittle your parent's career. We're here to give you a chance.'"

Each week, one descendent will be eliminated from the MTV singing competition. The winner will receive a record deal from Jive and \$100,000.

Singer Belinda Carlisle, choreographer Jamie King, stylist June Ambrose and producer-manager Larry Rudolph act as the show's judges and have the power to save one contestant from being voted off by viewers.

"It's much harder for kids, even our kids, to break through these days," Olivia Newton-John told the AP before the show. "Everyone wants to be a singer since 'American Idol.'"

Loggins is competing "Idol"-



AP

Crosby Loggins, son of Kenny Loggins, poses for a photo Thursday, April 3, 2008, backstage during taping of the MTV reality show "Rock The Cradle," starring the offspring of famous musicians, at CBS Studios in Los Angeles.

style against Chloe Rose Latanzi, daughter of Newton-John; Landon Brown, son of Bobby Brown; Lucy Walsh, daughter of the Eagles' Joe Walsh; A'Keiba Burrell-Hammer, daughter of M.C. Hammer; Lara Johnston, daughter of Doobie Brothers' Tom Johnston; Jesse Money, daughter of Eddie Money; Jesse Blaze Snider, son of Twisted Sister's Dee Snider and Lil Al B. Sure!, son of Al B. Sure!

During Thursday's live "Rock the Cradle" premiere, Log-

gins performed Nick Lowe's "(What's So Funny 'Bout) Peace, Love and Understanding," made famous by Elvis Costello. Loggins said contestants who continue in the competition will be tasked with performing a song from their parents. He said he'd pick "Danny's Song."

"He's proud of me for having the balls to do this," Loggins said about his father. "He knows I've worked my whole career to disassociate myself from him until I had enough legitimacy. "



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Wine aficionados gather at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant for the tasting of certified Angus Beef and Kendall-Jackson wines.

Review: Tenor battles cold in 'Tosca'

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP)—Two of opera's venerated statesmen captivated the crowd in a Zurich staging of "Tosca," despite imperfect performances by the orchestra and title role.

Brooklyn-born tenor Neil Shicoff battled a sore throat Friday night as the romantic hero Mario Cavaradossi and struggled early on, particularly in the opening aria "Recondita armonia."

But, like Cavaradossi in the Puccini opera, Shicoff grew stronger as the drama unfolded, bellowing out the "Vittoria" lines that lead him to the gallows.

By the opera's final third act he was at his best, delivering

that "singing from the gut" that maestro Seiji Ozawa once said of Shicoff's unique sound.

Shicoff was matched by Ruggero Raimondi in the role of the evil police chief Scarpia. Raimondi may be past the height of his powers, but still possesses a booming baritone and wonderful stage presence.

Isabelle Kabatu as Tosca was somewhat less impressive. Kabatu is a talented actress with a luminous voice, one that easily filled Zurich's compact Opernhaus. But at times, she seemed indecisive on the stage, perhaps because of Deflo's questionable direction.

In the final scene when Tosca

usually jumps to her death off Rome's Castel Sant'Angelo, Deflo had Kabatu grab a gun and kill herself, collapsing on her dead lover as Juliet falls on Romeo in Shakespeare's play.

The idea fell flat and looked forced.

The orchestra under Nello Santi was at times wonderful, with subtle changes in tempi helping draw the listener in. But the blasts of brass lacked some crispness, and one could have asked for a more electrifying sound to highlight the tension in this most dramatic of operas.

Four more performances are planned through April 24.

Film legend Charlton Heston dead at 84



AP
Actor Charlton Heston poses in character, in the title role of the motion picture "Ben-Hur," on April 29, 1958, at Cinecitta studios in Rome, Italy.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlton Heston, who won the 1959 best actor Oscar as the chariot-racing "Ben-Hur" and portrayed Moses, Michelangelo, El Cid and other heroic figures in movie epics of the '50s and '60s, has died. He was 84.

The actor died Saturday night at his home in Beverly Hills with his wife Lydia at his side, family spokesman Bill Powers said.

Powers declined to comment on the cause of death or provide further details.

"Charlton Heston was seen by the world as larger than life. He was known for his chiseled jaw, broad shoulders and resonating voice, and, of course, for the roles he played," Heston's family said in a statement. "No one could ask for a fuller life than his. No man could have given more to his family, to his profession, and to his country."

Heston revealed in 2002 that he had symptoms consistent with Alzheimer's disease, saying, "I must reconcile courage and surrender in equal measure."

With his large, muscular build, well-boned face and sonorous voice, Heston proved the ideal star during the period when Hollywood was filling movie screens with panoramas depicting the religious and historical past. "I have a face that belongs in another century," he often remarked.

Publicist Michael Levine, who represented Heston for about 20 years, said the actor's passing represented the end of an iconic era for cinema.

"If Hollywood had a Mt. Rushmore, Heston's face would be on it," Levine said. "He was a heroic figure that I don't think exists to the same degree in Hollywood today."

The actor assumed the role of leader offscreen as well. He served as president of the Screen Actors Guild and chairman of

the American Film Institute and marched in the civil rights movement of the 1950s. With age, he grew more conservative and campaigned for conservative candidates.

In June 1998, Heston was elected president of the National Rifle Association, for which he had posed for ads holding a rifle. He delivered a jab at then-President Clinton, saying, "America doesn't trust you with our 21-year-old daughters, and we sure, Lord, don't trust you with our guns."

Heston stepped down as NRA president in April 2003, telling members his five years in office were "quite a ride. ... I loved every minute of it."

Later that year, Heston was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. "The largeness of character that comes across the screen has also been seen throughout his life," President Bush said at the time.

He engaged in a lengthy feud with liberal Ed Asner during the latter's tenure as president of the Screen Actors Guild. His latter-day activism almost overshadowed his achievements as an actor, which were considerable.

Heston lent his strong presence to some of the most acclaimed and successful films of the midcentury. "Ben-Hur" won 11 Academy Awards, tying it for the record with the more recent "Titanic" (1997) and "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (2003). Heston's other hits include: "The Ten Commandments," "El Cid," "55 Days at Peking," "Planet of the Apes" and "Earthquake."

He liked to cite the number of historical figures he had portrayed:

Andrew Jackson ("The President's Lady," "The Bucca-

See **FILM** on Page 20

Some of Charlton Heston's films

"Peer Gynt," 1942
"Julius Caesar," 1949
"Dark City," 1950
"The Greatest Show on Earth," 1952
"The Savage," 1952
"Ruby Gentry," 1952
"The President's Lady," 1953
"Pony Express," 1953
"Arrowhead," 1953
"Bad for Each Other," 1953
"The Naked Jungle," 1954
"Secret of the Incas," 1954
"The Far Horizons," 1955
"The Private War of Major Benson," 1955
"Lucy Gallant," 1955
"The Ten Commandments," 1956

"Three Violent People," 1957
"Touch of Evil," 1958
"The Big Country," 1958
"The Buccaneer," 1958
"The Wreck of the Mary Deare," 1959
"Ben-Hur," 1959
"El Cid," 1961
"The Pigeon That Took Rome," 1962
"Diamond Head," 1963
"55 Days at Peking," 1963
"The Greatest Story Ever Told," 1965
"Major Dundee," 1965
"The Agony and the Ecstasy," 1965
"The War Lord," 1965
"Khartoum," 1966

"Counterpoint," 1968
"Planet of the Apes," 1968
"Will Penny," 1968
"Number One," 1969
"Julius Caesar," 1970
"Beneath the Planet of the Apes," 1970
"The Hawaiians," 1970
"The Omega Man," 1971
"Call of the Wild," 1972
"Antony and Cleopatra," 1972 (also director)
"Skyjacked," 1972
"Soylent Green," 1973
"The Three Musketeers," 1974
"Airport 1975," 1974
"Earthquake," 1974
"The Four Musketeers," 1975
"The Last Hard Men," 1976

"Midway," 1976
"Two-Minute Warning," 1976
"The Prince and the Pauper" (or "Crossed Swords"), 1977
"Gray Lady Down," 1978
"Mountain Man," 1980
"The Awakening," 1980
"Mother Lode," 1982 (also director)
"Solar Crisis," 1990
"Almost an Angel," 1990
"Wayne's World 2," 1993
"Tombstone," 1993
"True Lies," 1994
"In the Mouth of Madness," 1995
"Alaska," 1996
"Hamlet," 1996
"Hercules," 1997

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Death and Funeral Announcement

Mr. Julian Attao Concepcion

also known as "Jude"

Passed away on Monday, March 31, 2008 at Commonwealth Health Center, Saipan.

Jude was born on Saipan September 26, 1951. He was 56 years old.

In his new life, he now joins his:

Mother: Carmen Attao Concepcion

Sister/Brother: Vicky C. Tudela, Henry A. Concepcion, Maria A. Concepcion

Sister-in-Law: Celina C. Concepcion

Maternal Grandparents: Soledad Cabrera San Nicolas & Vicente Magofna Attao

Paternal Grandparents: Rosa Quitano Taitano & Julian Cruz Concepcion

Mother In Law: Trinidad Arriola Borja

Niece & Nephew: Raelene Salas Concepcion, Joey Sablan Borja

Numerous Aunties & Uncles

His memories will live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Victoria Borja Concepcion

Children: Cartrina Concepcion & LJ Deleon Guerrero (Julian Joseph)

Tanya Concepcion & John Iguel (Trini Marie)

Lorna Concepcion & John Paul Flores (Juden & Rocco)

Victor Jude Concepcion & Roxanne Pangelinan

Father: Cesario Taitano Concepcion

Brothers/Sisters and Spouses:

(+)Victoria Concepcion & Joaquin /Annie Tudela & Children

Edward & Dorothy Concepcion & Children

Serafino Concepcion

Alice C. & Jess Taitano & Children

Julie C. & Frank Crisostomo & Children

Vicente & Mel Concepcion & Children

Linda Concepcion

Pat C. & Tony Sablan & Children

Danny & Virginia Concepcion & Children

Richard & Lucy Concepcion & Children

Frances C. & Joe Agulto & Children

Winnie C. & Patrick Celis & Children

Father In-Law: Victorino Tudela Borja

Brothers/Sisters In Law and Spouses:

Rose & Kilroy Guerrero & Children

Lucy & Greg Hurst & Children

Joe & Evelyn Borja & Children

John & Jessica Borja & Children

Reared Son: Carlos Ketebangang

Numerous Aunties, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces & Nephew, God Children

Schedule of Services:

Daily Masses is being offered every morning at 6:00 am at Kristo Rai Church. And a nightly rosary is being said every evening at 7:00 pm at Kristo Rai Church starting from March 31, 2008 to April 07, 2008.

On Tuesday, April 08, 2008, his remains will be escorted at 7:30 am from Borja's Funeral Home to The Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be commence at 11:00 am & Interment services will be followed at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery Chalan Kanoa.

Please join us in prayers.

Mrs. Victoria Borja Concepcion, Children & Family.



Safely Home

I am home in heaven, dear ones;
Oh so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.
All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in heaven at last.
Did you wonder how I so calmly
Trod the valley of the shade?
Oh, but Jesus' love illumined
Every dark and fearful glade.
And he came himself to meet me
In that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,
Could I have one doubt or dread?
Then you must not grieve so sorely,
For I love you dearly still;
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,
Pray to trust our Father's will.
There is work still waiting for you,
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remains,
You shall rest in Jesus' land.
When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
Oh, the joy to see you come!

Chris Rock says he hired indicted sleuth

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Rock testified at a private eye's racketeering trial Friday that he hired the man to investigate a model who demanded money after claiming she was pregnant with his baby, and who later accused him of sexual assault.

Outlandish and animated on stage, the 43-year-old comedian looked uncomfortable and spoke in hushed tones as attorneys asked him about his connection to Anthony Pellicano.

Pellicano and four other co-defendants have pleaded not guilty to using wiretaps and other tactics to dig up dirt to help clients in legal and other disputes. Rock was the latest star to testify at the trial; other celebrity witnesses included Garry Shandling, Keith Carradine and Paramount studio head Brad Grey.

Dressed in a black designer suit, Rock told jurors during his

15-minute appearance on the witness stand that he first hired Pellicano in 1999 through his attorney but did not know about his tactics.

Rock said he was the target of a shakedown by the woman who claimed she became pregnant during a one-night stand at the Beverly Hills Hotel while Rock was separated from his wife.

"Someone who was not pregnant with my child claimed to be pregnant with my child and requested large sums of money," Rock testified.

He testified that DNA tests showed he was not the father of the child.

Prosecutors have said the woman's name was illegally run through a criminal database in July 1999 by former Los Angeles police Sgt. Mark Arneson, a co-defendant in the case.

Rock testified that he hired Pel-



AP
In this courtroom artist drawing by courtroom artist Bill Robles released Friday, April 4, 2008, comedian Chris Rock is seen testifying in the trial of Hollywood private eye Anthony Pellicano in Los Angeles.

licano again two years later after the woman claimed the comedian had sexually assaulted her.

Prosecutors played a one-minute snippet from a 2001 audio recording between Rock and

Pellicano in which the detective tells him he had a copy of a police report filed by the woman.

"I don't want to embarrass you," Pellicano said on the tape. "I'm going to read this to you.

I'm not supposed to have this thing, you understand?"

Rock testified that he never actually saw the police report. He was never arrested or charged in connection with the sexual assault allegation.

"I'm here as a free man," Rock testified. "You know, I didn't do anything wrong."

On cross-examination, Arneson's attorney Chad Hummel asked if Rock knew what kind of information Pellicano was getting for him.

"I relied on what my lawyer told me," Rock said.

Rock also said he didn't know Pellicano was following the woman around town.

Prosecutors allege Pellicano, who is acting as his own lawyer, led a criminal enterprise by bribing police officers and telephone workers to get information.

Sylvester Stallone and for-

mer Hollywood superagent Michael Ovitz are among those on the prosecution's witness list, though they haven't been called to testify and it was unclear if they would take the stand.

Rock entered the courtroom with his hands crossed behind his back. Some jurors shifted in their seats to get a better look at the one-time "Saturday Night Live" player.

Rock answered most of the questions by simply saying "yes" or "no." He grimaced a few times and rubbed his eyes and head.

Rock's discomfort was obvious from the moment he was sworn in by a court clerk. Asked to say and spell his name, Rock meekly complied.

U.S. District Judge Dale Fischer asked the actor to speak up and say his name again.

"Mr. Rock, project," Fischer said.

FILM

From Page 19

neer"), Moses ("The Ten Commandments"), title role of "El Cid," John the Baptist ("The Greatest Story Ever Told"), Michelangelo ("The Agony and the Ecstasy"), General Gordon ("Khartoum"), Marc Antony ("Julius Caesar," "Antony and Cleopatra"), Cardinal Richelieu ("The Three Musketeers"), Henry VIII ("The Prince and

the Pauper").

Heston made his movie debut in the 1940s in two independent films by a college classmate, David Bradley, who later became a noted film archivist. He had the title role in "Peer Gynt" in 1942 and was Marc Antony in Bradley's 1949 version of "Julius Caesar," for which Heston was paid \$50 a week.

Film producer Hal B. Wallis ("Casablanca") spotted Heston in a 1950 television production of "Wuthering Heights" and offered

him a contract. When his wife reminded him that they had decided to pursue theater and television, he replied, "Well, maybe just for one film to see what it's like."

Heston earned star billing from his first Hollywood movie, "Dark City," a 1950 film noir. Cecil B. DeMille next cast him as the circus manager in the all-star "The Greatest Show On Earth," named by the Motion Picture Academy as the best picture of 1952. More movies followed:

"The Savage," "Ruby Gen-

try," "The President's Lady," "Pony Express" (as Buffalo Bill Cody), "Arrowhead," "Bad for Each Other," "The Naked Jungle," "Secret of the Incas," "The Far Horizons" (as Clark of the Lewis and Clark trek), "The Private War of Major Benson," "Lucy Gallant."

Most were forgettable low-budget films, and Heston seemed destined to remain an undistinguished action star. His old boss DeMille rescued him.

The director had long planned a new version of "The Ten Commandments," which he had made as a silent in 1923 with a radically different approach that combined biblical and modern stories. He was struck by Heston's facial resemblance to Michelangelo's sculpture of Moses, especially the similar broken nose, and put the actor through a long series of tests before giving him the role.

The Hestons' newborn, Fraser Clarke Heston, played the role of the infant Moses in the film.

More films followed: the eccentric thriller "Touch of Evil," directed by Orson Welles; William Wyler's "The Big Country," costarring with Gregory Peck; a sea saga, "The Wreck of the Mary Deare" with Gary Cooper.

Then his greatest role: "Ben-Hur."

Heston wasn't the first to be considered for the remake of 1925 biblical epic. Marlon Brando, Burt Lancaster and Rock Hudson had declined the film. Heston plunged into the role, rehearsing two months for the furious chariot race.

He railed at suggestions the race had been shot with a double: "I couldn't drive it well, but that wasn't necessary. All I had to do was stay on board so they could shoot me there. I didn't have to worry; MGM guaranteed I would win the race."

The huge success of "Ben-Hur" and Heston's Oscar made him one of the highest-paid stars in Hollywood. He combined big-screen epics like "El Cid" and "55

Days at Peking" with lesser ones such as "Diamond Head," "Will Penny" and "Airport 1975." In his later years he played cameos in such films as "Wayne's World 2" and "Tombstone."

He often returned to the theater, appearing in such plays as "A Long Day's Journey into Night" and "A Man for All Seasons." He starred as a tycoon in the prime-time soap opera, "The Colbys," a two-season spinoff of "Dynasty."

At his birth in a Chicago suburb on Oct. 4, 1923, his name was Charles Carter. His parents moved to St. Helen, Mich., where his father, Russell Carter, operated a lumber mill. Growing up in the Michigan woods with almost no playmates, young Charles read books of adventure and devised his own games while wandering the countryside with his rifle.

Charles's parents divorced, and she married Chester Heston, a factory plant superintendent in Wilmette, Ill., an upscale north Chicago suburb. Shy and feeling displaced in the big city, the boy had trouble adjusting to the new high school. He took refuge in the drama department.

"What acting offered me was the chance to be many other people," he said in a 1986 interview. "In those days I wasn't satisfied with being me."

Calling himself Charlton Heston from his mother's maiden name and his stepfather's last name, he won an acting scholarship to Northwestern University in 1941. He excelled in campus plays and appeared on Chicago radio. In 1943, he enlisted in the Army Air Force and served as a radio-gunner in the Aleutians.

In 1944 he married another Northwestern drama student, Lydia Clarke, and after his army discharge in 1947, they moved to New York to seek acting jobs. Finding none, they hired on as codirectors and principal actors at a summer theater in Asheville, N.C.

Back in New York, both

Hestons began finding work. With his strong 6-foot-2 build and craggily handsome face, Heston won roles in TV soap operas, plays ("Antony and Cleopatra" with Katherine Cornell) and live TV dramas such as "Julius Caesar," "Macbeth," "The Taming of the Shrew" and "Of Human Bondage."

Heston wrote several books: "The Actor's Life: Journals 1956-1976," published in 1978; "Beijing Diary: 1990," concerning his direction of the play "The Caine Mutiny Court Martial" in Chinese; "In the Arena: An Autobiography," 1995; and "Charlton Heston's Hollywood: 50 Years of American Filmmaking," 1998.

Besides Fraser, who directed his father in an adventure film, "Mother Lode," the Hestons had a daughter, Holly Ann, born Aug. 2, 1961. The couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1994 at a party with Hollywood and political friends. They had been married 64 years when he died.

In late years, Heston drew as much publicity for his crusades as for his performances. In addition to his NRA work, he campaigned for Republican presidential and congressional candidates and against affirmative action.

He resigned from Actors Equity, claiming the union's refusal to allow a white actor to play a Eurasian role in "Miss Saigon" was "obscenely racist." He attacked CNN's telecasts from Baghdad as "sowing doubts" about the allied effort in the 1990-91 Gulf War.

At a Time Warner stockholders meeting, he castigated the company for releasing an Ice-T album that purportedly encouraged cop killing.

Heston wrote in "In the Arena" that he was proud of what he did "though now I'll surely never be offered another film by Warners, nor get a good review in Time. On the other hand, I doubt I'll get a traffic ticket very soon."

First Death Anniversary

We, the wife and children of

† **Francisco Camacho Palacios**

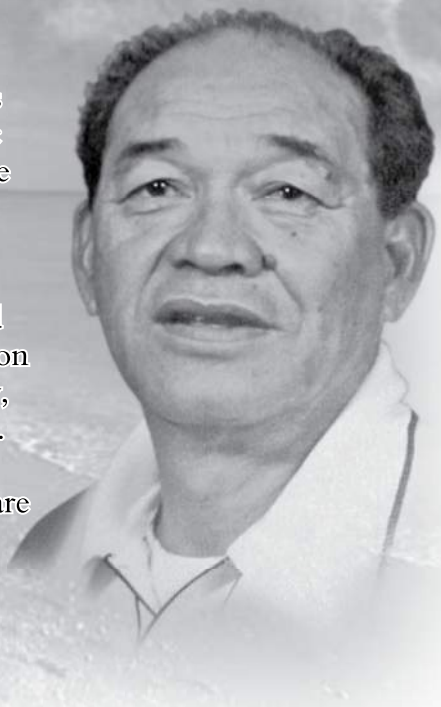
"Blessed be the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, who consoles us in our afflictions."
(2 Corinthians, 1:3b-4a)

Would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in Eucharistic celebrations as we commemorate the first anniversary of our beloved's passing into eternal life.

Memorial Masses will be celebrated each morning at 6:00 a.m. beginning on Thursday, April 3, 2008 until Friday, April 11, 2008 at Kristo Rai Church.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Raimunda T. Palacios and Children



Looks like Jay-Z and Beyonce are married

NEW YORK (AP)—It appears that Jay-Z and Beyonce have finally tied the knot.

There was a swirl of activity Friday at the rap mogul's Tribeca apartment. Delivery trucks funneled in and out of the building, dropping off silver candelabras and white flowers. A white tent was set up on the roof, and stars including Beyonce's former Destiny's Child bandmates, Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams, along with Gwyneth Paltrow, were spotted arriving.

A swarm of media camped outside the building was in a state of frenzy, snapping and shouting at any sport-utility vehicle that drove down the cobblestone street.

The Web sites of celebrity magazines People and Us Weekly reported the couple married and threw a lavish but small party at the apartment Friday, citing unnamed sources who are friends with the pair. The Web sites reported their families attended the party.

Rumors circulated all week about the event after a report that the couple had taken out a marriage license in Scarsdale, N.Y. Representatives for Beyonce Knowles and Jay-Z declined to comment on reports ahead of



Actress Gwyneth Paltrow arrives for a party at Jay-Z's apartment building, Friday, April 4, 2008 in New York. There was speculation that Jay-Z married his longtime girlfriend Beyonce Knowles on Friday in Manhattan.

the event. Jay-Z's publicist had no comment Saturday.

The couple, who have apparently been dating for six years, have never publicly acknowledged they are together. Knowles, 26, and Jay-Z, 38, whose real name is Shawn Carter, have collaborated on the songs "03 Bonnie and Clyde" and "Crazy In Love."

It's been a big week for the hip-

hop mogul. On Thursday, concert promoter Live Nation Inc. said it was in talks with Jay-Z over a potential business deal. The Los Angeles-based company stopped short of confirming published reports that the deal would give Live Nation a stake in virtually every aspect of Jay-Z's career and land him a potential windfall in excess of \$100 million.

A person familiar with the

negotiations between Live Nation and Jay-Z told The Associated Press that the proposed 10-year deal was worth about \$150 million and would cover three albums.

The person requested anonymity because of the confidential nature of the ongoing talks.

Live Nation is currently producing a tour with Jay-Z and Mary J. Blige.

James Bond finds 'Solace' a bit Chile

ANTOFAGASTA, Chile (AP)—After getting the bad end of his own ax in a fight, a bloodied villain limps alone in a stark desert. Mathieu Amalric stumbles to the red, rocky ground. "CUT!" rings loudly from the set of the 22nd James Bond film.

Picking up an hour after "Casino Royale" left off, "Quantum of Solace" is the spy franchise's first direct sequel. Filming began in January and has taken the crew from Britain to Panama to this moonlike landscape in northern Chile, which is standing in for Bolivia.

It's a place that director Marc Forster said evokes Bond's "isolation and loneliness."

"He is an assassin, he is a secret agent, and that reflects a certain lifestyle, which is lonely," said Forster.

Indeed, the big news on the set is that one of the two Bond girls, Olga Kurylenko, doesn't get in even a single kiss with star Daniel Craig. ("Why would I be disappointed?" Kurylenko insisted. "I'm just doing my work.")

The question is: Do audiences want an emo Bond?

Craig says not to worry too much.

"We're not making a kitchen sink drama here. We are making a Bond movie," he said. "What Marc wanted and the producers and what I wanted is to bring back a visual flair to the movie, so that every frame in every shot that we see is beautiful. And there may be things exploding, but they're good to look at."

Still, Forster, the youngest-ever Bond director at 39, was hired on by longtime produc-

ers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson because of his emotionally intense films like "Monster's Ball" and "The Kite Runner."

Despite the heightened realism of the last Bond film, not to mention its commercial success (over \$500 million worldwide), the German-born Swiss director was wary of joining the bombastic franchise.

Forster negotiated with producers to ensure he had as much

creative control as possible on the \$200 million-plus production. Nevertheless, he's still squeezed into the "framework of Bond."

"But I like it because you feel like it can make you very creative," he said. "And a lot of interesting things come out of that. Because, if you look at filmmakers that worked under politically repressive regimes, (they) made sometimes really interesting movies."

Filming is about halfway

done on "Quantum," which is the name of the organization Bond is going up against. Craig said the emotional tone is lighter than "Casino Royale," in which Bond's lover Vesper Lynd betrayed him and then died—but only a smidgen so.

"It's kind of Bond's journey into, at first we think it's vengeance, but it goes somewhere else," Craig said. "They've killed the love of his life, this organization, and we don't know who this organization are, and he needs to find out who they are. And it's for personal reasons but also professional reasons."

Craig said that aside from some communications equipment, "Quantum" puts little emphasis on gee-whiz electronics.

"The Aston Martin's there, and that's still the best gadget we have," he said.

During reporters' visit to the set, Forster was filming the climax. Offices and a lodge underneath one of the world's largest telescopes at Paranal Observatory acted as an eco-hotel, used by the villain. Back in London, it would be re-created - in order to be blown up, Broccoli said.

Craig fired into the skylight above the offices, and Kurylenko's character Camille ran separately off the roof of the building, flipping into a balcony. Amalric, playing the villain Dominic Greene, roamed the set in post-Bond fight makeup, bloodied and bruised on his cheeks.

A French director and actor known internationally for his star turn in "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," Amalric was allowed no shortcuts to villaindom.



This undated image provided by Sony Pictures shows Daniel Craig in character as James Bond for the movie Quantum of Solace during a scene being shot in Coco Solo, Colon, Panama.

Taxpayers get 'stimulated' by filing 2007 tax return

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: The IRS needs help from your readers.

Starting in May, economic stimulus payments of up to \$600 for individuals and \$1,200 for married couples will be issued by the IRS based on 2007 tax returns. Parents also get \$300 for each eligible child.

To receive it, people must file a 2007 tax return. That's all there is to it. And here's where your readers can help: Millions of people are eligible, but may not know it. Certain retirees, disabled vets and low-wage workers do not normally file a tax return. However, this year they must in order to receive the payments.

Your readers can help not just the IRS but perhaps themselves, friends or family by spreading the word. Please ask them to mention it to people they think might qualify. The eligibility rules are on irs.gov, the best source of information.

Generally, people who have at least \$3,000 from earned income or certain benefits from Social Security, Railroad Retirement and Veterans Affairs -- or a combination of income from these benefits -- are eligible. They need only provide a few details on a Form 1040A. We'll do the rest.

DOUG SHULMAN, IRS COMMISSIONER

DEAR DOUG: You're a wise man who obviously understands the power of word-of-mouth "advertising." And I am sure Dear Abby readers will be glad to pitch in and help get the word out so that everyone who is entitled will receive a check. For further details, simply go to www.irs.gov. Readers, thank you for helping to publicize this effort.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: One day my dad was talking to one of my friends, and he said, "We're poor." Abby, we live in a nice house in a middle-class neighborhood. Both my parents have their master's degrees, and I never have to worry about having something to eat or if I can afford to pay for my college education.

My parents always make comments about how much things cost and how much they can't buy. I'm sorry, but it's just a little bit irksome. I feel like their obsession with money is putting a crimp on enjoying the good things in life. Why can't they be a little more "cup is half-full"?

LINDSAY IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LINDSAY: Your father may have gotten some bad news about his investments the day he spoke to your friend -- as many people have over the past year -- or perhaps he suspected that she was palling around with you because she thought you had money. Ask your dad why he said what he did, because the answer could be enlightening.

It would have been helpful if you had mentioned what preceded your father's comment. That would have put it in context.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Why do people put old photos in the obituaries? When photos started appearing in obituaries, I thought it was a little strange. But publishing a photo taken at age 20 of a person who died at 85 makes no sense to me.

JUST CALL ME SNAPSHOT

DEAR SNAPSHOT: Consider this: Perhaps the deceased—or the grieving family—preferred that he or she be remembered in the full bloom of youth rather than ravaged by age or disease. That's the logical explanation.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone -- teens to seniors -- is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby - Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

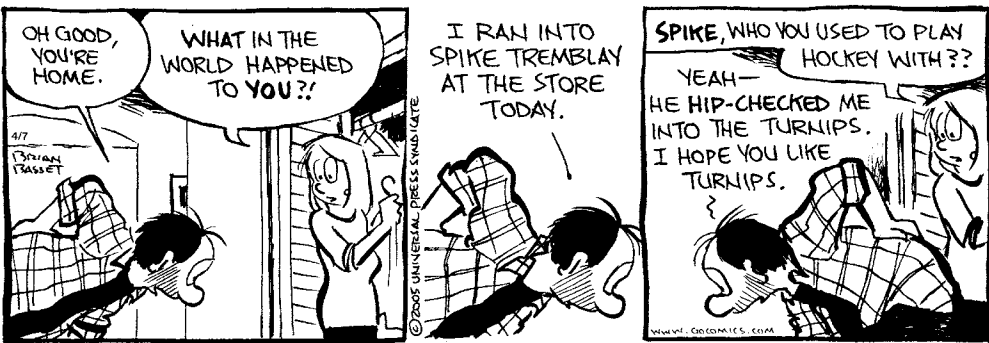
Calvin and Hobbes



Garfield®



Adam@home



The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Mentor
5 Bro or sis
8 Chest protectors?
12 Candid
13 Dead heat
14 Jacob's brother
15 "Death of a Salesman"
16 Terrier variety
18 Just know
20 Ran up the phone bill
21 Libertine
23 Regret
24 Yarn
28 Radiate
31 Eisenhower
32 Battle verbally
34 Golf ball's position
35 Porridge-making bear
37 Get-rid-of-junk event

DOWN

1 Mongolian
2 — arms (ready to fight)
3 Plundered
4 Spread out, as a flag
5 Sculptures
6 Square root of IX
7 Titanic destroyer
8 Chinch
9 Columbus' sponsor
10 Hay bundle
11 Took to court
17 Listener
19 Tittle
22 "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
24 Allen or Conway
25 Alias abbr.
26 Summer-time beverage
27 From the Continent
29 Lubricate
30 Tiny
33 Vortex
36 Sports venues
38 Colonize
40 "Hum-bug!"
42 Diane or Nathan
43 "Now — me down to sleep"
44 Grate
46 Burglar's booty
47 Russian city
48 Trawler gear
50 Floral neckwear

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	I	S	L	E	S	A	M	O	A	N
T	R	O	W	E	L	O	R	E	L	S
A	C	T	I	V	E	D	O	G	I	E
T	H	A	N	C	R	A	M	V	A	T
G	A	T	E	A	G	E				
A	D	O	I	R	A	N	N	O	U	N
V	E	N	T	R	I	L	O	Q	U	I
E	W	E	R	C	I	T	E	L	A	H
L	I	L	Z	E	D	S				
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S	T	R	E	S	S	S	W	E	E	T

Saturday's answer 4-7

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Russell Crowe, 44; Jackie Chan, 54; Janis Ian, 57; Francis Ford Coppola, 69

Happy Birthday: You'll be tempted to take on too much and overspend this year. Before you fall into this lifestyle, consider the consequences. If you minimize your grand ideas, you can turn things around and actually make positive progress. Develop the willpower you will need to say no. Your numbers are 8, 13, 20, 39, 46, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will get what you want if you don't get angry, pushy or ask for the impossible. Do something nice for someone you like or you may be faced with a disgruntled friend or partner who is disappointed in your lack of understanding and support. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Travel, learning and communication are all at your beck and call. Don't waste a moment when you have so much to gain. Put your plans into motion and show how powerful you can be. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You must keep secrets if you don't want to get into trouble today. A slip of the tongue or an innuendo will cause a rift. Focus on your home or putting money into a worthwhile investment. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Please get all the information required before you complain. It is likely you will spout off without knowing the facts. The odds are against you if you get puffed up over nothing or something that really shouldn't concern you. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let emotional issues cloud your vision, causing you to miss out on something. Love and romance are in the picture so don't ignore the signs and signals. A little travel will enhance your reputation and expand your friendships. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): There is so much waiting for you if you allow yourself to have fun. Get out, meet people, travel, communicate or attend something that interests you. You will gain new friendships and the possibility of a fascinating adventure. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put your efforts into your home and family. Money can be made if you are in the market for real estate or upgrading your current surroundings. With a little creative accounting, you can make your money grow. Love is in the stars. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A closer look at one of your partnerships will show you what needs attention. Don't let someone come between you and what means the most to you. Take care of emotional matters and business before someone else does it for you. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may not feel like working but it's important that you get things finished before you have fun. Your love life is looking good and a romantic time can fill the evening hours. Be well organized and inventive. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your intentions may be stellar but, if you aren't sensitive to the needs of those who love

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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you, whatever you do will be a waste of time. Focus on winning the hearts and respect of the people in your life who really count. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful what you say to whom and how many promises you make. You may find yourself in a quandary if you can't live up to the expectations you've set. Do as much as you can for others and don't complain about what others do in return. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You must move forward with your plans and not let anyone's negativity stop you from doing your thing. Once you realize your potential and power, the rest of what needs to be done will be easy. Press forward. ****

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, determined, hard working and willing to adapt if it is in your best interest. You are emotionally stable and a little bit stubborn.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	4		3			6				
1		8				4		2		
	6		8		4		7			
		4	7		6	3				
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		7	1		5	9				
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8		6				2		1		
	2			5			4			

Difficulty Level ★ 4/07

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WONDERWORD® By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

KEYS Solution: 8 letters

T R E S N I E L P I T L U M N
K R E D R O L L A M S W E I I
Y S N O I T I N G I E C I S P
T E K C O P B T L O C K C S S
L H P E R S O N A L U A E E T
R I N G L L M H O N R Z T C B
P E A E S E O O A R I S N I R
R S R M E L T T Y N T B E F I
I U O A E T U O A I Y R M F E
V O L G ® H A G N A D A E O F
I H O N S © R T G M L N L O C
L N C E S O © L O A O D P E A
E R S T A R T ® I R G E M M S
G U N I A L E V E R N E I O E
E T A C I L P U D N O T C H S

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Automobile, Brand, Briefcases, Carry, Color, Combination, Door, Duplicate, Game, Gold, Hole, Home, House, Ignition, Implement, Insert, Latch, Lever, Lock, Loose, Luggage, Magnetic, Mail, Main, Miss, Multiple, Notch, Office, Open, Order, Organize, Personal, Pocket, Privilege, Ring, Rotate, Security, Sets, Shut, Skeleton, Slot, Small, Spin, Start, Tool, Turn, Twist

Last Saturday's Answer: Photos

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Rose does it with flair, Memphis wins



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—As hard as it is to imagine, Memphis keeps getting better just when it matters the most.

The Tigers claimed their piece of history Saturday, beating UCLA 78-63 in the NCAA men's semifinals to become at 38-1 the winningest team ever in a single season. Now they have a chance to do what the other 37-win teams—Duke, Illinois and UNLV—couldn't do: cap it off with a national championship.

With Derrick Rose and Chris Douglas-Roberts taking turns at basketball acrobatics, it's certainly imaginable. And the Bruins certainly wouldn't doubt it.

"Going into the game, we knew that we was going to win. Ain't too much to say," Rose said. "We're just a great team. With the team that we have, it's hard beating us."

Coach John Calipari claimed his Tigers weren't aware they had set a record for most wins in major college basketball.

"My team's like, 'Is it? That's the most wins?'" Calipari said. "And then I told them, 'No, no. You've got to get to 39 to have the most wins.' Hopefully we'll have one more in us."

The Tigers will get their chance Monday night against Kansas, which beat North Carolina 84-66.

All season, this Memphis team from lightly regarded Conference USA played along with Calipari's us-against-the-world theme. Now, the Tigers need only one more victory for their first championship.

UCLA star Kevin Love put on his own show at practice Friday, hitting a full-court shot. He managed just 12 points—and missed both open 3-pointers—as the Bruins (35-4) again fell short in their third straight Final Four appearance.

"As disappointing as this loss is, it's hard to be here three years in a row and not come away with a championship," coach Ben Howland said.

"You have to give credit to Memphis State," he said. "There's a reason why they've only lost one game and they've won 38. They're a very, very good team."

Rose and Douglas-Roberts, especially.

A star freshman, Rose wasn't content to merely make shots, he wanted to stamp this Final Four as his own with a series of show-stoppers that became an NBA audition.

Rose put up lefty floaters and righty scoops, often changing hands in mid-air, and threw one try over his shoulder. He was in perpetual motion—once, he caught a pass in traffic, stutter-stepped just long enough to look his defender in the eye, and then sped past him for an easy but showy layup.

"Every once in a while, I go, 'Oh my' and I kind of sit down," Calipari said. "And they usually come at inopportune times for the other team."

Rose finished with 25 points and nine rebounds and a bunch of eye-opening moves that won't show up in the final box.

Rose also hit 11 of 12 free throws. For a team supposedly vulnerable from the foul line, the Tigers did great in making 20 of 23.

He fittingly wound up with the ball in the final seconds and heaved it high. Only then did he crack the slightest of smiles.

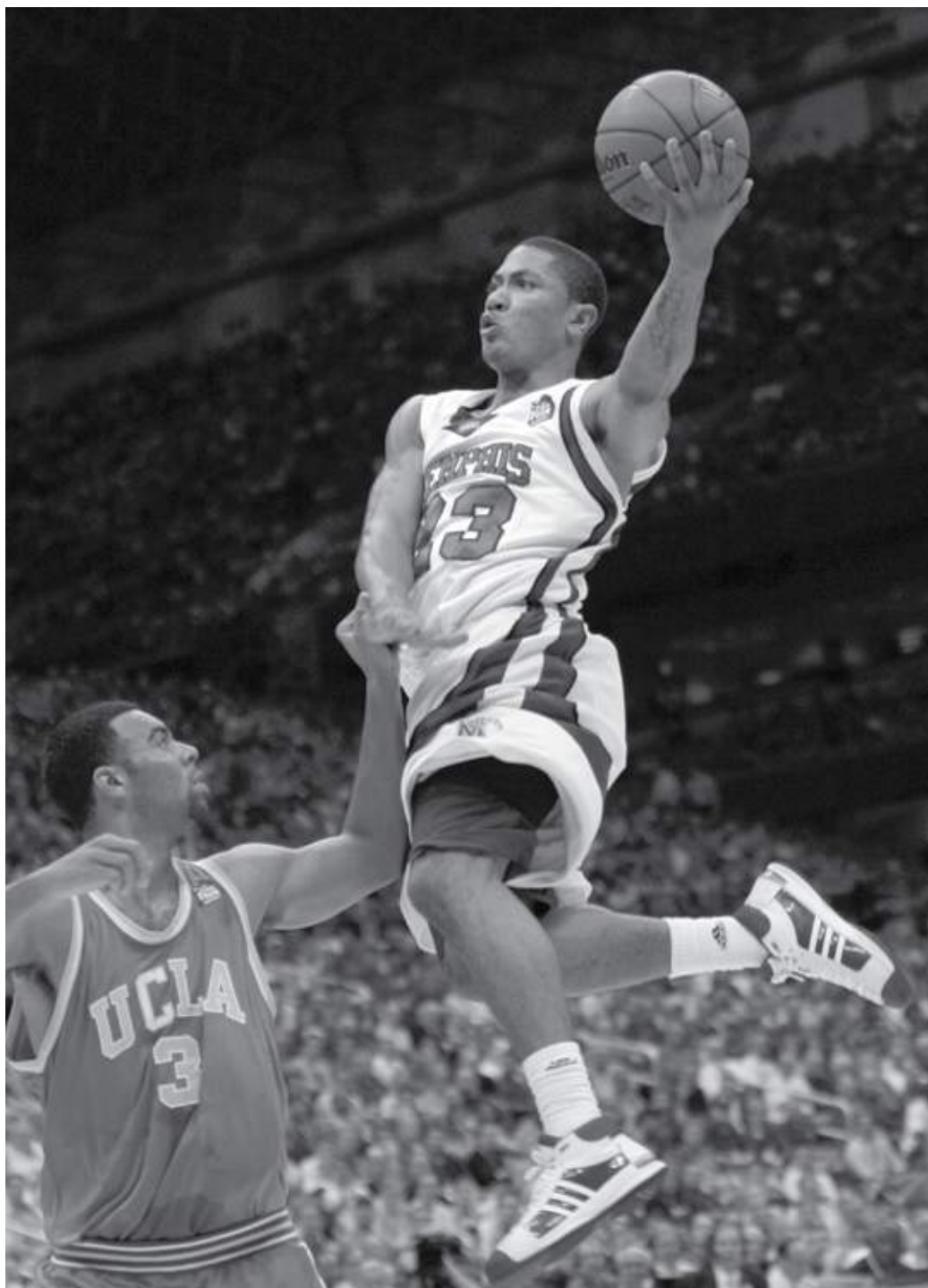
Douglas-Roberts played like an All-American, scoring 28 points and Joey Dorsey had the most peculiar line of all—zero points, but 15 big rebounds in keeping Love out of the middle.

"It's great, it's great," Douglas-Roberts said. "We all believe in each other and we expect great things to happen, so this isn't new to us."

Four other teams had won 37 times in a season—Illinois in 2005, UNLV in 1987 and Duke in 1999 and 1986—but all lost in the end.

Memphis has won its five games in this NCAA tournament by an average of nearly 16 points. The Tigers got off to a slower start this time, falling behind 5-0, before their suddenly chic "dribble drive motion" offense took over.

Memphis led 50-45 with 13 1/2 minutes left



Memphis' Derrick Rose, right, shoots over UCLA's Josh Shipp (3) during the first half of a national semifinal college basketball game at Final Four, Saturday, April 5, 2008, in San Antonio.

before pulling away. Rose made a couple of nifty passes, Dorsey came up with a monster block and later playfully popped Douglas-Roberts on the shoulder after a slam.

This was certainly no repeat of 1973, when the Tigers—then known as Memphis State—got routed 87-66 by UCLA in the title game. Bill Walton hit 21 of 22 shots and scored a record 44 points that night. But the big man has hip and back problems and wasn't able to make it to the Alamodome. Fact is, the taller Bruins were in trouble the entire way.

Russell Westbrook led UCLA with 22 points.

Kansas 84, North Carolina 66

At San Antonio, Texas, Roy Williams taught Kansas all about how to handle cruel, crushing disappointments.

Bill Self schooled the Jayhawks on how to dish out some pain of their own.

Kansas left its former coach in the dust Saturday night, getting 25 points and seven rebounds from Brandon Rush to stave off a ferocious comeback by North Carolina for an 84-66 victory in the national semifinals.

Trailing 40-12 late in the first half, Tyler Hansbrough, Wayne Ellington and the Tar Heels made a valiant rally, getting to within five points with nine minutes left.

But they fell short in their effort to pull off the biggest Final Four comeback ever.

"We sort of came out a little more casual than we would've liked and they hit us right between the eyes," Williams said.

Now, the Jayhawks will play Memphis, an earlier

78-63 winner over UCLA, in Monday's title game.

Kansas moved within a win of its first national championship since 1988, the year before Williams began his storied 15-year tenure in Lawrence—one that ended when he jilted Kansas for his alma mater.

"I hope it's set aside and goes away forever," Williams said of the animosity that has lingered since he left in 2003. "I'm too thin-skinned, probably. ... Let's don't focus on that. Focus on the great job done by Kansas."

Hansbrough had 17 points and nine rebounds for North Carolina (36-3)—a typically gutsy effort—but his next move will be to decide whether to come back for his senior season.

Kansas has more pressing things to deal with—stopping fast-breaking Memphis and its sensational freshman Derrick Rose.

"We know we've got another step to take Monday night," Sherron Collins said. "It's going to be a great matchup. They play fast, we play fast."

Collins had two assists, a 3-pointer and a pair of free throws during the decisive stretch that saw the Jayhawks (36-3) pad that five-point lead back to 15 and send the Tar Heels into true desperation mode.

Williams stood stoically as the clock ticked down, arms folded, nothing much left to do. Tears usually come pretty quickly after the final buzzer of the season for him, and this season ended one game short of where many thought it might.

"We've had a good year, but I don't think anybody's goal here was to be one of the top four teams in the country," Hansbrough said. "It's to be the top team. I'm frustrated with that."

Williams got outcoached in this one, especially at the beginning, finding no solution for Kansas'

strategy of dumping the ball inside to Darrell Arthur, Darnell Jackson and Cole Aldrich.

The Jayhawks also smothered Hansbrough, even flooring him once on a hard foul by Mario Chalmers.

"To start the game, I felt, instead of having 10 hands out there it felt like we had 14 or 16," said Self, in his first Final Four since replacing Williams five years ago. "Guys were making a move, a reverse pivot, and there were two hands there waiting for them."

Despite North Carolina's impressive comeback, the final stats painted a picture of Kansas domination. The Jayhawks shot 53 percent from the floor and held the nation's second-leading offense to 35 percent. They had nine more rebounds, 10 more assists, six more blocks.

This marked the first chance to see Self and Williams go against each other with their new teams—and on the game's biggest stage.

Self coached Kansas to the lead. Williams coaxed his team back in it.

But for all North Carolina's effort, this game was lost early.

"I've never been so embarrassed in my life," Tar Heel guard Marcus Ginyard said of the first 10 minutes.

The basket looked as big as the Alamo for the Jayhawks, who made 12 of their first 16 shots and went on an 18-0 run for a 33-10 lead with 9:31 left.

Meanwhile, the Tar Heels went a stunning 9:03 without a basket. No team has overcome a deficit bigger than 22 at the Final Four, and it was around the time the lead was 40-12 that none other than Billy Packer, the CBS analyst, said the game was over.

Not so fast.

Carolina turned this into controlled chaos over the first 10 minutes of the second half, altering Kansas shots and making pretty much everything they threw up - including a 3-pointer by Ellington (18 points) with 9:20 left that made it 58-53 and had the Tar Heel fans in a frenzy.

Throughout the rally, Self called time-out after time-out - KU fans often criticized Williams for not doing the same under similar circumstances - and eventually, North Carolina cooled and Kansas ran away.

Picking a Jayhawks star was as easy as closing your eyes and pointing to a name on the stat sheet.

Aldrich stood out, swatting three shots in the first half and altering more after coming off the bench en route to his eight-point, seven-rebound night. His highlight came after KU missed just its fifth shot of the game, more than 10 minutes into the first half, and he outgrappled Hansbrough for a rebound that resulted in two free throws. That made it 33-10.

Arthur had three buckets and an assist in the first five minutes to start the runaway. Russell Robinson had five points, four assists, three steals and three turnovers over the first 20 minutes—what coach wouldn't love that?

All that might have helped prove Williams' theory, as he tried to deflect all the talk of himself this week: That the game would be decided by the players.

The Jayhawks were simply better.

Die-hard KU fans might have deemed it their team's best moment since the 2003 Final Four, when Nick Collison helped dismantle Marquette 94-61 in the semifinals.

Two nights later, the Jayhawks lost to Syracuse in the finals. With talk swirling that Williams would be headed to Tobacco Road, he said on live TV that he "could give a (bleep) about North Carolina right now."

Two weeks later, he was wearing Carolina blue and Kansas fans were seeing red.

Maybe now, they'll be more willing to let bygones be bygones.

"I told my team that I hoped that distraction didn't bother them, because that would be about as bad as anything you could ever have as a coach," Williams said.

Celtics sets NBA record for biggest turnaround



CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)—The Boston Celtics routed the Charlotte Bobcats 101-78 on Saturday and secured home-court advantage in the playoffs and the NBA record for biggest single-season turnaround.

The Celtics improved to 61-15, 37 more wins than last season's 24-58 disaster.

The previous best turnaround was San Antonio going from 20-62 to 56-26 in 1997-98, the year they got Tim Duncan with the No. 1 overall pick in the draft.

Boston's trio of stars, Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen, didn't play, but it didn't matter. Leon Powe had 22 points and nine rebounds, leading a makeshift lineup of Celtics who were never threatened.

Magic 101, Cavaliers 86

At Cleveland, Hedo Turkoglu scored 23 points, Rashard Lewis added 21 and Orlando locked up the Eastern Conference's No. 3 playoff seed.

The Magic, who have sat behind Boston and Detroit in the standings for much of the season, won despite getting only 4 points on 1-of-8 shooting from All-Star center Dwight Howard—17 below his average. Orlando's defense, though, was the difference.

The Magic held Cleveland to 14 points in the fourth quarter and didn't let Cavaliers super-

star LeBron James get his first points of the period until there was 1:48 left. James, who has been bothered by back spasms, finished with 17 points, nine assists and seven rebounds.

Hawks 92, 76ers 85

At Philadelphia, Joe Johnson scored 22 points, Josh Smith added 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Atlanta built a big lead and held off Philadelphia.

Al Horford added 10 points and 12 rebounds for the Hawks.

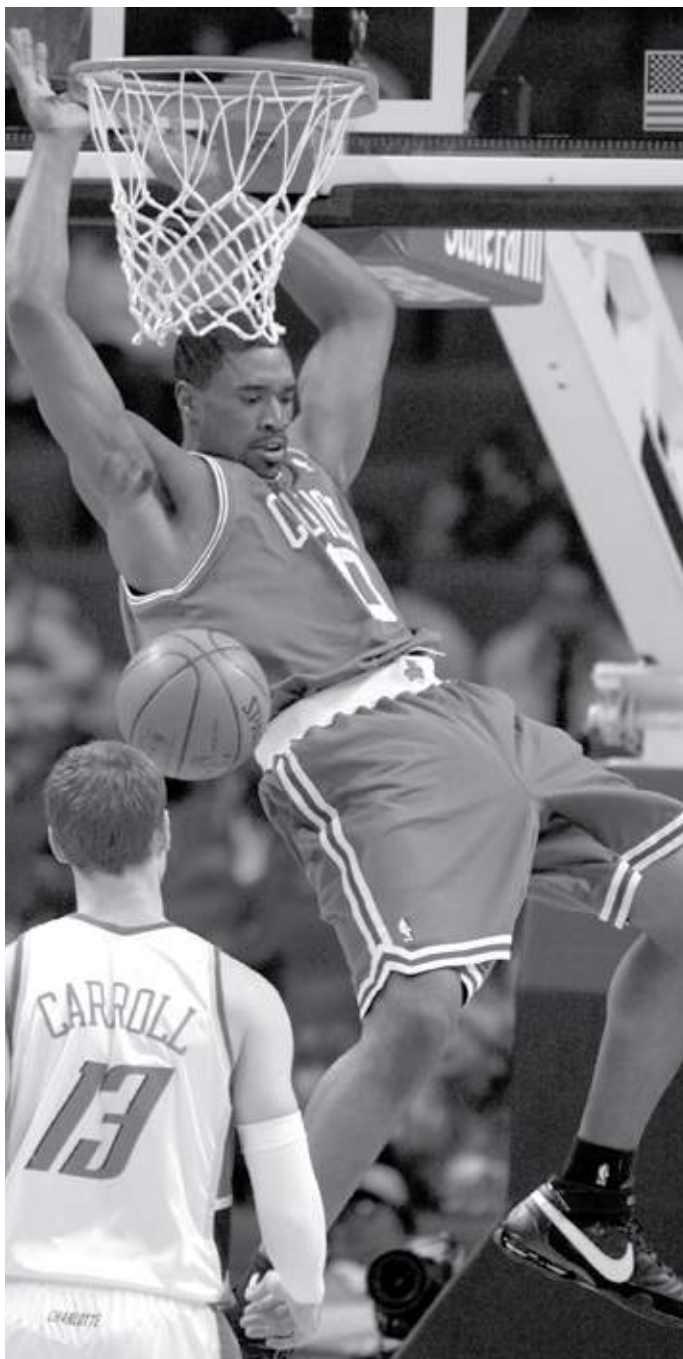
Andre Iguodala scored 25 points for Philadelphia, which had clinched a playoff berth for the first time in three years on Friday.

Nets 99, Raptors 90

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Vince Carter scored 21 of his 32 points in the second half and New Jersey beat struggling Toronto, snapping a four-game losing streak and keeping its faint playoff hopes alive.

Despite the win, the Nets' magic number for being eliminated from postseason contention for the first time in seven years was reduced to two when Atlanta beat Philadelphia earlier.

Boston Celtics forward Leon Powe (0) dunks as Charlotte Bobcats guard Matt Carroll (13) looks on during the first half of the Celtics' 101-78 win in an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday, April 5, 2008.



Chris Young lifts Diamondbacks to 7-2 win over slumping Rockies



DENVER (AP)—The Arizona Diamondbacks spoiled the unveiling of the Colorado's National League championship banner by beating the Rockies 7-2 on Saturday.

Chris Young hit two homers and Brandon Webb (2-0) allowed only one earned run and five hits over seven innings for the Diamondbacks.

Justin Upton had a solo homer in the second inning, his third of the season, and two singles.

Brewers 5, Giants 4

At Milwaukee, Manny Parra earned his first major league victory, delivering a breakout performance in Milwaukee's win over San Francisco.

Parra held the Giants hitless through five innings before giving up a pair of runs in the sixth and leaving the game with a 3-2 lead. The Giants scored another two runs off the Brewers' bullpen in the final three innings, but late-inning homers from Ryan Braun and Gabe Kapler helped Milwaukee hold the lead.

Reds 4, Phillies 3

At Cincinnati, Paul Bako hit a run-scoring infield single with one out in the ninth inning to lift Cincinnati to a win.

Bako hit a twisting bouncer that shortstop Jimmy Rollins backhanded, but couldn't get out of his glove in time to throw out Ryan Freel at home.

Ryan Howard hit his first homer of the season for Philadelphia.

Cardinals 5, Nationals 4

At St. Louis, Adam Wainwright completed a dominating first time around for St. Louis' injury-depleted rotation, working eight strong innings in a victory over Washington.

Yadier Molina had two hits and two RBIs and Wainwright (1-0) also drove in a run. The Cardinals' 4-1 start is their best since 2000.

Cubs 9, Astros 7

At Chicago, Kosuke Fukudome hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the seventh inning and Derrek Lee was 4-for-4 with a home run and two RBIs to lead Chicago.

Carlos Lee went 3-for-4 with a home run and two doubles, and Houston ace Roy Oswalt (0-2) lost his second game of the season, allowing six runs—five earned—on 10 hits.

Braves 11, Mets 5

At Atlanta, Kelly Johnson's pinch-hit grand slam broke open a close game and Atlanta roughed up John Maine in a win over New York.

Johnson, the regular second

baseman, didn't start for the third straight game due to his sore right knee. With two outs in the seventh and the Braves leading 5-3, Johnson pulled a 3-2 pitch from Jorge Sosa into the right-field seats for his second career grand slam.

Padres 4, Dodgers 1

At San Diego, NL Cy Young Award winner Jake Peavy continued to dominate Los Angeles, throwing a two-hitter for the first complete game in the big leagues, striking out eight to lead San Diego to the win.

Marlins 7, Pirates 3

At Miami, Mike Jacobs hit his first career grand slam to lead Florida over Pittsburgh.

Jacobs' 417-foot blast to right-center off starter Paul Maholm gave the Marlins a 5-1 lead in the fifth.

Hanley Ramirez also homered for the Marlins.

Rays 6, Yankees 3

At New York, Andy Pettitte was roughed up in his first start following a rocky offseason, and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the New York Yankees.

Pettitte was on a shorter-than-normal pitch count after he opened the season on the disabled list with back spasms. He lasted just five innings and was

outpitched by Edwin Jackson (1-0), who allowed one run and five hits in six innings.

Blue Jays 10, Red Sox 2

At Toronto, Frank Thomas hit a two-run homer, David Eckstein had three RBIs and Toronto used a six-run eighth inning to beat Boston for the sixth straight time.

Jesse Litsch (1-0) allowed two runs on five hits over five innings for the win. He walked three—one intentional.

Twins 6, Royals 4

At Minneapolis, Justin Morneau hit his first home run of the season and drove in four runs, and Livan Hernandez won his second straight start for Minnesota.

Hernandez (2-0) pitched seven solid innings as the Twins won their second consecutive game against Kansas City, which started the season 3-0. Hernandez allowed four runs and seven hits.

White Sox 5, Tigers 3

At Detroit, Jim Thome hit an RBI double in the sixth inning for Chicago's only hit off Dontrelle Willis, and Chicago beat Detroit, the only winless team in the major leagues.

Detroit is 0-5 for the first time since the Tigers dropped their first nine games in 2003 en route to an AL-record 119 losses.

Rasho Nesterovic had 22 points and 14 rebounds to lead the playoff-bound Raptors.

Kings 118, Nuggets 115

At Denver, Kevin Martin scored 36 points despite missing Sacramento's shootaround with the stomach flu, and the Kings dealt a blow to Denver's playoff plans with a surprising win at the Pepsi Center.

The Kings, out of playoff contention and missing Ron Artest (thumb) and Brad Miller (leg), won their fourth straight game and snapped Denver's nine-game home winning streak. They took advantage of sloppy play and silly mistakes by the Nuggets, who got 47 points from Carmelo Anthony, two shy of his career high.

Instead of moving into a seventh-place tie with Dallas, Denver, which frittered away an early 12-point lead and trailed from the middle of the second quarter, fell into a tie with idle Golden State for the eighth and final playoff spot in the wild Western Conference.

Wizards 99, Bulls 87

At Chicago, Brendan Haywood scored a career-high 25 points, Caron Butler added 18 and short-handed Washington beat Chicago.

The Bulls got 18 points from Ben Gordon and 16 from Larry Hughes, but fell 51/2 games out of the eighth and final playoff spot.

Athletics 6, Indians 1

At Oakland, California, Cleveland's C.C. Sabathia got roughed up in another disappointing homecoming and Dana Eveland allowed one run in seven innings to win in his Oakland debut.

Jack Cust hit a two-run double in a three-run first inning and Mark Ellis added a solo homer against Sabathia (0-1), who fell to 1-4 with a 7.12 ERA in eight career starts in Oakland.

Orioles 6, Mariners 4

At Baltimore, Luke Scott went 3-for-3 with two RBIs, and Baltimore received solid contributions from several other newcomers in a victory over Seattle.

Matt Albers (1-0) pitched 1 2-3 innings of one-hit relief and George Sherrill worked the ninth for his third save in three tries.

Angels 2, Rangers 1

At Anaheim, California, Jered Weaver pitched seven scoreless innings, Torii Hunter and Howie Kendrick had run-scoring hits and Los Angeles beat Texas.

Weaver (1-1) allowed three hits, walked none and struck out six. Darren Oliver relieved and gave up a leadoff homer in the eighth to David Murphy. Francisco Rodriguez followed Justin Speier out of the bullpen and got three outs for his third save.

Wagner leads by 1 at Houston Open



HUMBLE, Texas (AP)—

Johnson

Wagner says he's struggled too much on the PGA Tour to apologize when things finally go his way.

Wagner got lucky bounces on two tee shots and shot a 3-under 69 on Saturday to take a one-shot lead over Chad Campbell after the third round of the Houston Open. The 28-year-old Wagner, winless in 43 career starts, had a 15-under 201 total.

Campbell, playing one group ahead of Wagner, birdied five of his first nine holes for a 65. Charley Hoffman and Bob Estes were three behind at 12 under. Estes shot a 64, the best round of the day. Hoffman had a 69. Geoff Ogilvy shot a 66 to reach 10 under, and Mathew Goggin was another shot back after a 72.

Wagner started the day three shots ahead of Hoffman and Goggin. Campbell was five back, but made up that deficit in eight holes.

Wagner saw it all, including Campbell's 62-foot putt down a slope on the sixth. Campbell also holed a wedge from 88 yards for an eagle on the par-5 eighth.

"I definitely didn't like starting with a three-shot lead and seeing it erased immediately," Wagner said.

Wagner, in his second year on tour, admitted Friday that he would have to battle his nerves to win for the first time and earn an invitation to next week's Masters. He played better after Campbell tied him, sinking a 16-foot birdie putt on the par-3 ninth to get going.

On the back nine, Wagner got away with two bad tee shots, hitting a spectator on the 13th and a tree on the 15th, but escaping with two pars.

"I've had enough bad breaks not to feel bad about the good ones," he said.

Campbell was tied with Wagner for the lead until hitting his tee shot into the rough on No. 17 and taking a bogey.

The 33-year-old Campbell was the runner-up to Shaun Micheel at the 2003 PGA Championship, then won the Tour Championship later that year at The Champions in Houston. He won at Bay Hill in 2004, but has only two victories since, admitting that the run of success made him complacent.

He has four top-20 finishes this year and felt good about his game coming to Houston, even after missing the cut in New Orleans last week.

"Golf is a weird game," he said. "Lot of times, you don't get results as quick as you want them. You tend to be a little impatient."

WABOL

From Page 28

the title. Dunlop, Joe Tudela, and Jess Castro ended up tied with similar 81 scores that needed the playoff at hole No. 18. Dunlop had a disastrous tee

RACE-ARRIOLA

From Page 28

Tennis mixed doubles crown last December, opened up the round-robin play with a 6-2, 7-5 win over Nicolas Son and Thea Minor.

Loyola and Tan, meanwhile, had little rest before the finals against Race and Arriola after scoring a hard-earned 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (10-8) win over Son and Minor. They were down 5-2 in the third set but they rallied back in the game to force the tiebreak.

With momentum clearly shifting on their side, Loyola and Tan did not back down and continued their aggressive plays at the net and baseline forcing their opponents to wide returns.

Race also won the men’s open doubles crown when he partnered with Loyola in beating the Son-Wook Su Chang pair in the finals, 6-3, 6-4.

Cleofe Santos and Hector Benitez ruled the mixed doubles 4.0 division with a 6-1, 7-5 decision over Tan and Gabriel Colombo. Santos then joined Minor in winning the women’s open title after sweeping their opponents.

Santos and Minor first defeated Matty Buenaventura

shot but finished off the contest with excellent putting to claim the crown. He save par in the par-4 hole No. 18, while Tudela and Castro bogeyed and double bogeyed to finish second and third, respectively.

M. Sunaga topped the C Flight with a final score of 87,

and Delia Johnson, 6-2, 6-0, then scored a 6-1, 6-1 decision against Arriola and Lila Mailman.

Arriola and Mailman bounced back with a 6-1, 6-3 triumph over Johnson and Buenaventura to claim the runner up honors.

Buenaventura and Johnson, however, claimed the women’s doubles 4.0 title after beating Theecel Minor and Tisha Ferrer, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5. They also defeated Karen Buettner and Jodel Fernandez, 6-2, 6-1.

Theecel and Tisha scored a 6-0, 6-3 decision against Buettner and Fernandez to arrange the finals match against Buenaventura and Johnson.

Nanding Cajigan and Reo Arriola downed Gary Ramsey and Richard Brostrom, 7-5, 6-2, in the men’s doubles 4.0 finals, while Dodong Salinas and Ernie Henson pulled off a 7-6, 3-6, 6-1 victory over Ted Jung and Tommy Kennington in the men’s doubles 3.0 division.

In the boys’ 9-and-under, Chris Cajigan and Colin Ramsey showed nerves of steel to survive the gallant stand made by Evzen Pabellon and Elnathan Wong, 7-5, in the finals.

Cajigan and Ramsey defeated Jordan Butcher and Thomas Lim, 6-0, in the semis while

while Brian Nicolas and S.C. Chen scored an 87 and a 90 to place second and third.

T. Umezawa shot a 39 and 35 for a 74 to top the Senior Flight with Nick Sablan (39-39) and former Superior Court associate judge Ed Manibusan (38-41) placing second and third.

Pabellon and Wong downed Luther Lizama and Carl Dela Cruz, 6-2, to clinch the second finals berth.

Butcher and Lim won over Clayton Izuka and Alex Park, 6-3, in the other match.

Christian Miller and Daniel Camacho ruled the boys’ 13-and-under doubles after a 6-2, 7-6 triumph over Rafael Jones and Nathan Nutting in the finals.

Miller-Camacho also scored consecutive wins over the pairs of Tommi Choi and Quintin Ramsey, 6-4, 6-3, and Raj Ramnani and Joel Jang, 6-0, 6-1, while Jones and Nutting followed them in the finals with wins over Jake T. Lee and Clay McCullough-Stearns, 6-0, 6-2, and Kennedy Izuka and Chris Park, 6-0, 6-3.

Lee and McCullough-Stearns escaped with a 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 win over Dylan Ackerman and Lucas Nutting in the other match.

Eight-year-old Neghar Rastguiy teamed up with Ilia Corella to beat the pair of Amy Arenovski and Gabrielle Race, 6-1, 6-3, in the girls’ 13-and-under division.

PIC, Pacific Trading Co., Stay Well Insurance, and Tiniian Dynasty Hotel and Casino were some of the sponsors of the tournament.

end the game.

Hustlers I 9, Dolphins 7

Cody Kaipat pitched in no relief to help the UMDA Hustlers I to a 9-7 win over the PTI Dolphins on Saturday.

Kaipat, who also had a double, gave up three earned runs on eight hits with 10 strikeouts and five walks.

He had a lot of run support from Joseph Borja, who blasted a solo inside-the-park, four-bagger in the third inning to go with his 2-for-3 batting. Borja also scored two runs and had two RBIs.

A.J. Lizama went 3-for-4 with two runs, two triples, and two RBIs while Rhobby Kaipat went 2-for-3 with a run and three RBIs.

17-22 and was still alive at 20-24 on a Gin Gridley kill at the corner but could not sustain their momentum as Haggan scored the winning point when YoYo’s return went out of bounds.

The Haggan Younggunz is composed of P.J. Quintanilla, Ton Crisostomo, Josh Cruz, Kevin Perez, Van Murer, and Alden Bautista while Team Haggan is led by captain Shelly Taisipic, Sharon Del Mundo, Luci Calvo, Becky Salas, Mie Rabago, Purinne Cruz, Leslie Hendricks, and Diana “Slim” Reyes.

The Ladies Flight followed a Peoria format and was ruled by veteran golfer Noriko Togawa, who shot a 39 and 41 at the front and back for a gross of 80. She had an 8.4 handicap for a net score of 71.6.

Lourdes Kim fired a 46 and 40 for an 86 gross and the 12 handicapper ended up with a 74 net to place second. Joan Kim placed third with a 74.6 net (44-45, 14.4).

Ed Manglona won a Palm

Trio courtesy of PTI after having the lowest score based on the Peoria-type format scoring. He shot a 49 and 43 for a 92 gross but had a 22.8 handicap to end up with a 69.2 net.

The 7th Annual HANMI Charity Classic was sponsored by Aqua Resort Club, Carlsmith Law Office, Century Hotel, Century Tours, Chung Nam (c/o Mr. Jae), Coral Ocean Point Resort, DFS, D&Q, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Flame Tree TV,

Hafadai Beach Hotel, HANMI, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Joeten Motors, JSTA, Kautz Glass, Marianas Resort and Spa, Northwest Airlines, Pacific Eagle Enterprises, Pacific Islands Club, Procter & Gamble, PTI, Sablan Topline, Saipan Country Club, SaipanCell Communications, Saipan Grand Hotel, Saipan Sanki, Saipan World Resort, Takagi & Associates, Tan Holdings Corp., Titan Imports, and 360 Restaurant.

Company once again proud sponsoring Saipan Sportsfest

Once again, participants to Saipan's major international sporting events—the XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon—were treated to snacks and beverages provided for by SUBWAY® Restaurants, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc., Foremost Foods.

The support came at a time when Coca-Cola Beverage Co. would be sponsoring this year's Beijing 2008 Olympics, and reflected in Coca-Cola's continuing commitment to promote sports events abroad and in the local community.

"Our group of companies, consisting of Coca-Cola Beverage (Micronesia) Co., Foremost Foods, SUBWAY® Restaurants, and Glimpses Advertising and Publications, have always held a commitment to supporting the communities we serve. Quality-of-life initiatives relating to health and education are a strong focus of our Group," Johnnie Fong, managing director for Coca-Cola and Foremost Foods, said.

He said support was provided for by the group of companies to the event on different levels, from the participants to the spectators, to make it successful. "Our contribution helped defray the cost of holding such a large-scale event. The athletes appreciate the food, beverages, and services that our companies



Jim Vance of the United States gets medical attention from volunteer nurses at the first-aid tent of last month 7th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship.

provide. We also assisted by encouraging off-island participants by promoting the event outside of the CNMI," Fong said.

The XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman are "important to the marketing efforts of the CNMI because they are internationally recognized events that give our islands a positive image.

"Our Group is supported by that same island community so it

is important for us to reinvest in them. The Tagaman and XTERRA Saipan events are in line with our companies' promotion of a healthy lifestyle. Coca-Cola is an international supporter of the 2008 Beijing Olympics and SUBWAY® Restaurants are committed to being a vital part of an active lifestyle," Fong said.

He added that the group of companies expects that the just

concluded events would bring a lot of attention to the beauty and activities in the islands. "We hope that all the participants found this to be a first-class event that challenged their athletic abilities. Locally, we hope that the events have emphasized the importance of an active lifestyle and diet for healthy living," Fong said.

For her part, Stella Fong, SUBWAY® Restaurants Investments Corp. vice president, said providing snacks for Xterra

and Tagaman participants is the company's way of giving back to the community in support of local and visiting athletes.

"It's our own little way of helping our athletes, and giving them the encouragement to excel," she said.

The 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship, which was held on March 8, had a total of 52 individual finishers and six teams, and over 100 volunteers. The 19th Tagaman Triathlon, held on March 15, had 42 individual participants and 19 teams. There were 17 participants in Tagakids. Tagaman had over 200 volunteers.

Andrew Noble of Australia topped both events. He finished Xterra's grueling .72-mile swim, 18.7-mile bicycle race, and 7.2-mile run in just 2 hours, 46 minutes and 51 seconds. He finished the Tagaman race in two hours, 54 minutes and 25 seconds.

Renata Bucher of Switzerland, for her part, bagged her fourth XTERRA Saipan Championship title in the women's division clocking in at three hours, 12 minutes and 46 seconds. She also won her first Tagaman race at three hours, 24 minutes and 34 seconds.

Organizers said they will be planning for a bigger Xterra and Tagaman next year, including clinics to involve visiting triathletes with the community. (PR)

Billiards crown within Hustlers' reach

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



If the Porky's Extremists and Jonny's Destroyers won't make a move, the Budweiser-SBA Open 8-Ball League title is in the bag for the SaipanCell-Krystal Perfect Spot Hustlers.

The final four weeks of competitions will be crucial for the three teams as every win and lose will gravely affect their standings and final placing in the 15-week league.

As of the moment, the SaipanCell- and Krystal backed Hustlers have a league-best 65-12 record and enjoy a 14-game lead over the second-running Extremists (51-26), which in return hold a slim one-game advantage over the Destroyers. (50-27).

The Hustlers scored a 5-2 decision over USSP Watever with Erwin Gomez, Joey Lucido, Rowell Mariano, and Senen Pangelinan winning their respective matches against Ken Philips, Rick Rengil, John Tutei, and Rose Philips without dropping a game in the singles events.

The Hustlers won four-out-of-five singles matches with Robert Sanciango earning the lone loss when he dropped his assignment against Ed Munondoc.

The pair of John Ricaforte and Jerry Soriano also lost to Munondoc and Rengil in the first doubles match. Mariano then teamed up with Gomez to beat Ken and Rose Philips in the other doubles pairing.

In other matches, Wild Wild West scored a 7-0 shutout win of the visiting Coral Reef Barracuda while the Destroyers, Krystal Perfect Spotters, and Coral Reef Shark Attack cruised to similar 6-1 decisions over Len's 5 Bad Boyz, Wild Bill's Snipers, and Mr. Wonderful Shooters.

Godfather's Magas and the Extremists downed Len's 5 Amigos and Porky's Wild Hogs in similar 5-2 fashions.

Pacific Amusement, the same company that runs the leagues of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association, organizes the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League.

For more information about the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League and the SEDA leagues, contact league secretary Charlotte Tenepere at 233-4397.

Islanders to take on Oman this weekend

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



powerhouses, Australia and New Zealand, will see action in a second round tie this coming weekend from April 11 to 13.

The Islanders travel to Muscat for a Group 2 relegation tie against Oman. Brett Baudinet of the Cook Islands has been recalled to the Pacific Oceania team to strengthen the doubles options.

Pacific Oceania will play Oman in Muscat starting this Friday. Although it is Oman's first time in Group 2 it will be a very tough tie for the Pacific team who have yet to win away from home.

Islanders captain Cyrille Mainguy has named the same team which won Pacific Oceania's first ever home tie against Lebanon in 2005.

Solomon Islands star Michael Leong heads the team along with Juan Langton of Samoa, Cyril Jacobo of Vanuatu, and the returning Baudinet. The team have been training in Brisbane and left for Oman last Saturday, April 5.

Oman has named the same team as that which lost 0-5 to New Zealand in the first round in February. The Oman players will have learned from their experience then and be tougher for the Pacific team to crack.

Play in Muscat will be in the afternoon/evening each day to avoid the 35-plus degree heat in the middle of the day and will conclude under floodlights.



Islanders captain Cyrille Mainguy has recalled Brett Baudinet of Cook Islands for Pacific Oceania's 2008 Asia/Oceania Zone Group II relegation tie against Oman this weekend in the Middle East country's scorching capital, Oman.

The starting time is 3pm each day which is 10pm New Zealand time so play is not expected to finish until breakfast time the next day Pacific time. Two singles will be played on Friday, the doubles on Saturday, and the reverse singles on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Australia has the only home tie, hosting Thailand in Townsville where they are hoping to clinch a place in the World Group playoffs with a win in their Group 1 semi-final. New Zealand travels to Kuwait for their second round tie in group 2 and will face a tough challenge in their efforts to regain a Group 1 place.

CNMI invited to join Masters caging in Guam

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The CNMI Masters teams have been invited to join the 2008 World Masters Invitational Tournament from May 10 to 14 in Guam.

The tournament will have the Over-40, -45, -50, -60, and -70 as divisions. The CNMI will be sending three teams in the Over-40, -45, and -50. They will be competing against other Masters teams from Australia and host Guam.

Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Elias Rangamar will coach the Over-40 team, while CNMI National basketball coach Rufino Aguon will handle the Over-45 squad.

Veteran referee and BANMI Referees Association vice president Arnold Mesa will call the shots for the 50-and-up team. A minimum of seven and a maximum of 12 players will be allowed in each team.

The three teams will be holding a team meeting on April 8, Tuesday, at 6:30pm at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium in Fina Sis.

For more information, call

Rangamar at 664-2502 or Aguon at 234-5498 ext. 2500 or Mesa at 868-6578.

The 2008 season of the Guam Masters League will open on May 17 after the tournament with the same age groups.

Guam is also inviting interested players or teams from the CNMI to join their Masters



Joe Pangelinan of CK Legends goes up for a shot in this file photo from a Masters Basketball League game a few years ago.

league. The tournament fee is \$250 and the deadline of submission of entries and team rosters is on April 25.

For more information, call Frank Roberto Sr. at 671-472-7678 ext 420 or email at fcrberto@portofguam.com.



Company once again proud sponsoring Saipan Sportsfest

Once again, the XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon—were treated to snacks and beverages provided for by SUBWAY® Restaurants, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc., Foremost Foods. **27**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Rose does it with flair, Memphis wins

As hard as it is to imagine, Memphis keeps getting better just when it matters the most. The Tigers claimed their piece of history Saturday, beating UCLA 78-63 in the NCAA men's semifinals to become at 38-1 the winningest team ever. **24**



28 MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Guam's Team Haggan dominates Jam Attack



JON PEREZ

Guam's Team Haggan joins Saipan's YoYo's for a group photo after yesterday's Jam Attack finals at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Haggan beat yoYo's in the championship to complete their title defense.

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



Guam's Team Haggan swept the 18th edition of the Jam Attack, completing their back-to-back title bids after games held over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Haggan ruled both the men's and women's divisions after surviving the gallant stand put up by Saipan's Ol'Aces and YoYo's in separate finals matches played yesterday. Both champions won \$500 each.

It was the second straight year that Guam teams ruled the Jam Attack. Last year, Team Haggan used the tournament as a warm up for the 2007 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

Guam's NU Heights won the 2006 men's title, while Saipan's Pikan Gaga topped the women's side. In 2005, The Guam Bombers and Team Haggan ruled the men's and women's class.

The six-man Haggan Young-gunz completed a 10-game sweep of their matches after a

25-10, 23-25, 15-3 demolition of Ol'Aces in the finals to claim their second straight title.

Ol'Aces matched their opponents' level of play to prevent Haggan from scoring a sweep in the finals and tied the game at a set each after a hard-fought battle in the second frame.

But Haggan would not be denied the win as they came out firing in all cylinders in the deciding third set, racing to a 5-0 lead to force Ol'Aces to call timeout and regroup their senses.

The timeout did not help Ol'Aces as Haggan continued to attack their defense at the net then scored points on carefully placed dropped shots and kills at the backline.

Haggan also put up a defensive wall at the net to take out Ol'Aces main hitter Freddy Pelisamen out of his comfort zone. Pelisamen could not penetrate the two-man and at times three-man blocks put up by Haggan at the net.

Ol'Aces called another time out when Haggan moved five points away from wrapping up the contest at 10-2. Haggan remained aggressive going on a

See GUAM'S on Page 26

Wabol rules HANMI Golf

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Jess Wabol foiled Jeff Taylor's title defense and lead five other winners during Saturday's 7th Annual Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Charity Classic held at the Marianas Country Club.

All Flight winners received \$500 cash and a one month free golf at MCC, which they received along with their trophies in Saturday night's banquet at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

Wabol, despite the windy conditions, bested six other golfers in the Championship Flight to win the title in the first of the three major golf tournaments in the CNMI.

The former Oleai Elementary School principal fired a 37 both in the front and back nines to end up with a final score of 74 and enjoy a three-shot lead over last year's champion Taylor.



Taylor was aiming to defend his title and started out strong with a 38 in the front to remain one shot back of Wabol, but could not sustain his momentum in the final nine holes to finish with a 39 and a 77 total.

Tony Camacho fired a 42 and 39 for an 81 to end up in third place.

Other golfers in the Championship Flight were Bae Yong Man (82), C.K. Kim (82), Andy Nepaial (85), and Chief Public Defender Adam Hardwicke (89).

Charlie Jo won the A Flight after surviving a two-hole playoff with fellow junior golfer Jin Ahn after both of them finished with a 76.

Putting became the key in the two-hole playoff in Nos. 17 and 18 as Jo pared both holes, while Ahn pared No. 17 and had a bogey in the 18th hole. J. Sablan placed third with a 78.

Jo also won the longest yard with a tee shot of 355 yards in hole No. 14.

The B Flight also went in a playoff but Donn Dunlop only needed one hole to win

See WABOL on Page 26



Jess Wabol hugs his Championship Flight trophy after winning the 7th Annual HANMI Charity Classic on Saturday at the Marianas Country Club.

JON PEREZ

Race-Arriola lead doubles winners Patriots join Dragons on top

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



The May-September tandem of Jeff Race and Mayuko Arriola led nine other pairs that won their respective division titles in the 8th Annual Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade Tennis Championships held over the weekend at the PIC courts.

Race completed a doubles sweep when he teamed up with Arriola in claiming the mixed doubles open title beating the pair of Peter Loyola and Lydia Tan in yesterday's finals.

The Race and Arriola tandem won their second straight title when they handed the Loyola-Tan pair a 6-2, 6-3 defeat in the mixed open finals.

Race and Arriola showed no mercy against Loyola and Tan as they dictated the tempo of the match to cruise to the easy win that only lasted more than one hour.

Race and Arriola, which also won the 4th Taga

See RACE-ARRIOLA on Page 26



JON PEREZ

Mayuko Arriola, right, serves while partner Jeff Race waits for the return in their mixed doubles open match against Peter Loyola and Lydia Tan in the 8th Annual Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade Tennis Championships held yesterday at the PIC courts.

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



Defending champion SaipanCell Patriots joined the vastly improved Pacific Islands Club-Deloitte&Touche Dragons of San Antonio on top of the standings in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League.

The Patriots scored an 11-0 shutout win over the also retooled Bank of Saipan Red Sox on Saturday to improve to a 6-1 record, which is the same mark of the Dragons after a 14-12 win over the Martha's Store-Survivors last Thursday at the

Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

Jeremy Rabauliman pitched a complete game no-hitter five with 10 strikeouts and two walks while going 3-for-4 scoring two runs, had two doubles, a triple, and an RBI.

Cousin Jun blasted a two-run home run in the third that highlighted the Patriots' four-run scoring to go with his 1-for-3 batting and two RBIs.

Jared Sablan, Alan Aguon, and Jose Lizama combined for 6-for-9 in batting with five runs. Sablan also connected with a triple and had three RBIs, while Lizama had an RBI single in the fifth.

Richard Borja went 1-for-3

See PATRIOTS on Page 26